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THE TIMES



INTERNATIONAL EDITION

No 64,418 SATURDAY AUGUST 22 1992 50p



MAN OF HONOUR
Leoluca Orlando, former mayor of Palermo, returns to become a Mafia target
Saturday Review Page 4



STREETS OF CHARM
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DISTURBING THE PEACE
Clive Aslet reveals why August has become the most aurally offensive month
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ASSAULTING THE SENSES
Alina Reyes' writing hovers somewhere between erotica and pornography
Saturday Review Page 10

Times poll on press intrusion

Royal family loses support over privacy

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

PUBLIC sympathy for the royal family over press intrusion into its privacy is diminishing according to a Mori poll for *The Times*. More than twice as many people as two years ago believe it is justifiable for the press to invade royal privacy in pursuit of a story.

Public opinion is almost evenly divided on whether newspapers should have published intimate pictures of the Duchess of York and her friend John Bryan. When Mori asked a sample of more than 1,000 adults if newspapers were right or wrong to

publish the photographs, 53 per cent of those questioned said they were wrong and 42 per cent thought they were right. There was much more public sympathy for two politicians who had suffered recently from publicity about their private lives than there was for the Duchess of York. The poll found that 67 per cent thought that newspapers had been wrong to publish the story about Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, who was briefly an unmarried mother. Only 26 per cent thought the story should have been published. There was a 54-39 verdict against publication of the story about

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, which gave details of his five-year-old affair with a secretary. However, while 44 per cent of respondents thought that newspapers should not have published details of the affair between David Mellor, the national heritage minister, with an actress, 49 per cent thought they were right to have done so.

The poll shows strong public support for the right of newspapers to breach privacy to expose criminal conduct such as fraud or a sex crime: 89 per cent of those questioned said it was right to report, while 8 per cent disagreed. Asked if newspapers were right to breach people's privacy "to expose personal hypocrisy, such as a politician or member of the royal family who proclaims support for family life while having an affair", 55 per cent thought they were justified in doing so and only 38 per cent thought they were not.

Mori asked for which groups of people it would be justifiable for the press to invade their privacy in support of a story. Politicians came top at 40 per cent, followed by magistrates and judges on 39 per cent, police officers on 36 per cent and the royal family on 33 per cent. While most categories are up about ten percentage points compared with when Mori last asked the question for the *News of the World* two years ago, the percentage of respondents who are ready to sanction an invasion of royal privacy has more than doubled from 16 per cent. In 1990 the figure for politicians stood at 32 per cent.

When people were asked specifically about press intrusion into the lives of the royal family, 65 per cent said there was too much and 7 per cent too little. The figures for politicians were 41 per cent (too much), 16 per cent (too little), with 39 per cent of respondents saying that it was about right. The verdict on press intrusion into the lives of ordinary members of the public who become involved in major news stories was 51 per cent (too much), 6 per cent (too little), 36 per cent (about right).

The public regards newspapers in general and the tabloid press in particular as too intrusive. More than half (51 per cent) did not agree when asked if the press in general behaves responsibly in Britain, while 41 per cent did agree. Two years ago 48 per cent of respondents felt the press did not behave responsibly. Continued on page 2, col 4

Do you think the newspapers were right or wrong to publish...

	Right	Wrong
The story about the government minister David Mellor's secret affair with an actress?	49	44
The photographs taken of the Duchess of York on holiday in France with John Bryan?	42	53
The story about Paddy Ashdown's affair five years ago with his then secretary?	39	54
The story about health secretary Virginia Bottomley having been an unmarried mother?	26	67

Pictures of duchess draw one complaint

By Alan Hamilton

THE Press Complaints Commission said yesterday that it had received just one complaint from the public about the publication of photographs of the Duchess of York in the compromising company of John Bryan, her self-styled financial adviser. Although the photographs attracted an unusual public expression of outrage from the Queen, as a gross invasion of privacy, a commission spokesman talked of a "deadly silence, which is extraordinary."

Press speculation about the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales had prompted nearly 400 telephone calls and 70 letters; the recent scandal involving David Mellor, the national heritage secretary, had drawn 20 letters and 53 calls.

Looking even more unusual than on Thursday, the Duchess of York again adorned the tabloid press yesterday, in a further and yet more revealing set of holiday photographs. For the second day running, the *Daily Mirror* devoted seven pages to the pictures, taken by an Italian freelance photographer while the duchess and Mr Bryan were on holiday last week in St Tropez. The rival *Sun*, rapidly catching up on the story, devoted its front page to a colour shot of the bare-breasted duchess bending before Mr Bryan.

The *Mirror* forebore to publish such an explicit view of the Queen's daughter-in-law, Roger Eastoe, the paper's deputy managing director, said it had the pictures of the bare-breasted duchess but chose not to use them. "We are a family newspaper first and foremost," he said. Both papers had printed thousands of extra copies.

Buckingham Palace remained silent on the issue yesterday, except to steer callers in the direction of the Princess of Wales, who was attempting to carry on business as usual by visiting a hospice in Hull. During the day a rumour patterned that the Duchess of York would leave Balmoral by helicopter, bound for exile abroad, but so far as could be established she remained with other members of the royal family, including her husband, in residence at the Scottish holiday retreat where she has been staying with her two children since returning from St Tropez. Mr Bryan remained at his Chelsea apartment yesterday.



Fighting back: Mr Bush raising Republican morale with attacks on Bill Clinton

Polls show Bush is closing gap

THREE polls yesterday showed that President Bush has secured the big "bounce" he needed from a Republican convention that had mercilessly denigrated Bill Clinton, his wife, and the Democratic Congress (Marlin Fletcher writes from Houston). Mr Bush was closing fast on Mr Clinton, narrowing the gap to between five and 12 points, compared with between 15 and 25 before the convention. A *Wall Street Journal* analysis suggested the two candidates were dead even in the electoral college, the balance being held by a dozen states accounting for 119 of the 538 votes. Mr Bush was angrily denounced by the Democrats for promising across-the-board tax cuts if re-elected.

Milosevic agrees to attend London talks

By Michael Bivon and Jamie Dettmer in Washington

DESPITE fears that he and other Serbian leaders would boycott the London talks on the former Yugoslavia next week, Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, has said that he will be present. Lord Carrington, chairman of the European Community peace mission, has now received acceptance from all six presidents and leaders of the republics that made up Yugoslavia. Representatives from Kosovo and Vojvodina, the two autonomous Serbian regions, have also agreed to come. The delegation from Belgrade, the Serbian capital, will include President Cosic of the rump Yugoslavia and Milan Panic, its prime minister. Mr Milosevic will be accompanied by Vladislav Jovanovic, his foreign minister. All the delegates will sit

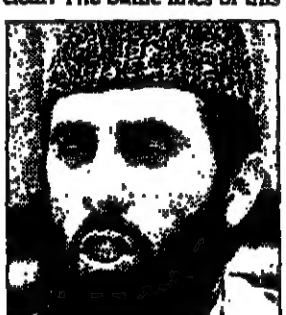
behind individual nameplates, thus avoiding arguments over recognition. Neither Britain nor the countries which seceded from the former federal Yugoslavia recognise the rump successor, made up of Serbia and Montenegro. The three-day conference, which begins on Wednesday, will be opened by John Major. Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, will chair the steering committee. Lawrence Eagleburger, who becomes acting US Secretary of State tomorrow, said that he would press for tighter sanctions. A new sniper attack was reported yesterday on the barracks where Ukrainian peacekeepers are based. Nobody was hurt. Shelling intensifies, page 7

Thousand flee armed fanatics roaming Kabul

Kabul residents who survived the struggle against Soviet intervention are finding the internecine war unbearable. Chris Thomas reports from the stricken Afghan capital

Kabul is a dying city. Pulverised by rockets and artillery, practically waterless and completely without electricity, short of affordable food and run by armed men, it is barely fit for human habitation. There is a different government on every street corner. Here it is Uzbek militia, there it is Tajik Mujahidin. Somewhere else Shia Muslims, or the long-persecuted Hazaras flex their muscles. The pattern of control changes constantly, turning a simple journey into a frightening gamble. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the fanatical Pashtun leader who has been bombing the Afghan capital for two weeks, claims that he is hitting only military and government installations. This is nonsense; no residential area has escaped his random bombardment. The death toll in a fortnight is well over 1,000.

It is renegades like these who prey on people fleeing to the east and north of the city on overloaded buses and lorries to escape the bombardment. To the west is desert, to the south are Mr Hekmatyar's men, whose ruthless attacks are designed to destabilise what little semblance of real government exists. He has offered to participate in peace talks, but anything Mr Hekmatyar says should be taken with much salt. He is backed by factions of the armed forces that have defected with sophisticated hardware, including fighter planes. Whether he is in a position to fly them is not clear. The battle lines of this



Hekmatyar: "aiming at military targets only"

Tens of thousands of people who suck it out in Kabul during the 12 years of the last war have decided that they cannot stomach the new one and have fled. Leaving the capital is hazardous because gangs of unemployed gunmen are looking to loot. The city is surrounded by fanatics of many hues. We spent a night in the basement of a derelict building on the city outskirts after thugs with machineguns made further progress impossible. A travelling companion was slapped in the face and had a rifle shoved into his belly by a teenager who did not like being answered back. An elderly Mujahidin fighter snatched the gun away, doubtless saving a life.

new war, coming four months after the end of the last one, are essentially Pashtun versus non-Pashtun. It has been thus for centuries. International aid agencies might have to quit unless the anarchy in Kabul is contained. The United Nations has evacuated all but four of its expatriate staff by sending them by road to the Uzbek-controlled city of Mazar-i-Sharif, north of Kabul, and from there to Uzbekistan. Continued on page 14, col 6

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How apemen kept humanity in the mainstream

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent



SWIMMING instructors provide evidence that mankind evolved from an aquatic ape who moved to the seas five million years ago, a British surgeon said yesterday. Unlike chimpanzees and other primates, humans can grow a tiny bone in their ear canals which may have helped the ape to protect sensitive hearing membranes from pressure and water damage. The protrusion, an exostosis, is normally present in less than 6 per cent of the population, but is found in up to 60 per cent of people who swim more than three times a week and in all swimming instructors, studies have found.

Peter Rhys-Evans, a consultant ear, nose and throat surgeon at the Royal Marsden Hospital, London, whose findings are published in the *Journal of Laryngology and Otology*, said yesterday that the bony growth may show that one or more groups of apes left the falling forests and savannah grasslands of Africa to exploit the rich food supply of the coasts and estuaries. Hairlessness, the fitness of new-born babies and their ability to swim but not to walk are all throwbacks to an aquatic past, it is claimed. Weeping is another feature that humans do not share with other primates. Living in the seas meant man's ancestor needed to lose more salt, the theory argues.

Mr Rhys-Evans, who will deliver his findings at a meeting organised by the McCarrison Society at next week's annual conference of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, in Southampton, said that the claim was supported by humans having bigger sinuses than other primates. They may have been used as buoyancy tanks. Unlike other non-aquatic mammals,

humans have a larynx which is not in contact with the back of the nasal cavity, meaning that they can breathe through their mouths as well as their noses. "Breathing through the mouth would have been a tremendous advantage for a land mammal that is diving," Mr Rhys-Evans said. The spin-off of this larynx arrangement is speech, one of mankind's most superior skills.

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Police divided over action by worried householders on new estates

Private firms recruited for night crime patrols

By PAUL WILKINSON

FEARS of rising crime have led home owners in two parts of northern England to recruit private night patrols. Police reaction is mixed.

In Sunderland, residents on two new housing developments are being asked to pay £2.50 a week to employ all-night foot patrols. The Northumbria force said: "Anything that puts an extra pair of eyes and ears out on the streets to combat crime can only be a good thing." But Greater Manchester police have questioned a similar scheme on three estates in Wigan, saying that it heightens fear of crime in an area where offences have fallen in the past year.

The Wigan scheme, run by a newly-formed company called Property Watch, offers "wardens" at 75p a week who will cover times of the day when residents are not available to operate their neighbourhood watch schemes. The first patrol will begin on Monday. One resident, Dilly Huyton, said: "After being broken into last year, I think we need something like this. We need it for peace of mind."

The creator of the scheme, Colin Baxter, a draughtsman from Thornton, Lancashire, discourages the word "security" and says that his staff are forbidden from involvement in any incident. "They have a Vodafone phone to contact the police and that is all they are allowed to do. There will be no citizen's arrests. Our success will be determined not by me or the police, but by the public."

He said that he has already signed up 500 householders and has had requests from other parts of Lancashire to set up similar schemes.

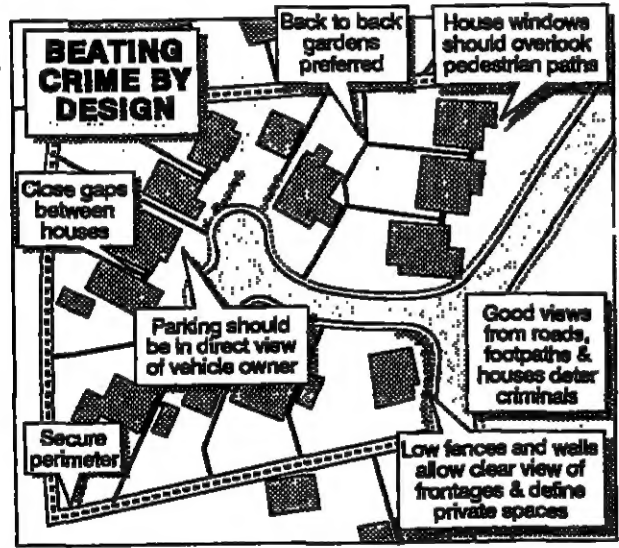
Supt Mick Gray, of Greater Manchester police, said: "More and more we are putting uniformed constables out in these areas and I think the difficulty you may encounter is, what do you do when you see a different, strange uniform in your community? Does that reinforce the fear of crime when really there is no crime? A police officer is seen as part of the community." Crime in that area had dropped by 4.5 per cent in the past 12 months.

Police in Sunderland were enthusiastic about a scheme scheduled to start next month on two new estates. Supt Lew Graham said that most crimes were committed between 6pm and 6am, when the patrol would be operating. "I wouldn't mind if more were set up."

John Fothergill, who lives on the 64-home Hyton Manor estate in Sunderland, said: "We have had four burglaries on our estate in the past year. It's not an enormous crime problem, but we want to nip it in the bud. We haven't lost faith in the police, but we realise what a difficult job they have."

Lindsay Suddick, the sales manager of Delta One Security Services and a former policeman, said: "We are not trying to replace the police, but complement the service they provide."

Leading article, page 11



Keeping watch: Norman Jackson, co-ordinator of Property Watch, on patrol in Goose Green, Wigan

Designers build to beat the burglar

Police and developers are working together to make new homes as safe as houses, Rachel Kelly reports

POLICE forces throughout England and Wales are attempting to curb burglaries by pressing developers to include crime prevention measures into the design of estates and homes.

In Sussex not one of 1,300 houses and flats that were built incorporating security measures during the last four years has been burgled. Sergeant Peter Hardy, architectural liaison officer with Sussex police, said: "This shows that the use of design in certain security features is effective in the battle against crime."

Under the "Secured by Design" initiative homes have been built with security measures designed to deter criminals in places such as Brighton, Eastbourne, East Grinstead and Crawley. There has been no full evaluation of the initiative, by police in Sussex where last year there were 13,425 recorded burglaries, of which 1,517 were cleared up. But Sgt Hardy said incorporat-

ing security measures into the design of estates and homes was now common practice among builders and developers.

Under the initiative, police carry out an analysis of crime patterns in the area before offering developers' and builders' advice on the measures they should take to make homes and estates more secure. A developer building an estate in a high risk area would be encouraged to build a 1.8 metre high closely boarded fence around the perimeter while in a low-risk district, police would suggest a hedge with a chain link fence.

The layout of an estate is also an important feature in efforts to curb crime. It should have well lit and overlooked footpaths and landscaping designed to avoid

hiding places. The police encourage developers to plant low prickly bushes to deter criminals and suggest surveillance can be improved by planting of trees which do not have low boughs.

Developers are also urged to build estates with entrances which have pillars and a change of road surface on entry from the public highway. Homes should also be built in closes or cul de sacs. Sgt Hardy said: "These measures are meant to have a psychological effect on a criminal. They are intended to make a person feel it is private property and to make them stop and think. Hopefully a person will not feel comfortable and this deters the criminal."

It costs an average £300 per house to add in extra security features. These in-

clude the use of robust doors, letter boxes a minimum of 16in from door locks, security lighting to front and rear automatically switched by time switch, intruder alarms, and the layout of the estate.

In spite of the sophistication of incorporating all such features into estates and houses, police say that even simple measures such as good lighting for footpaths and car parks and sensible locks can deter burglars.

All but five of the 43 police forces in England and Wales have adapted the "Secured by Design" initiative. Police in Scotland will take part from November. In May the scheme was extended to include commercial buildings.

Though there is nothing in law to enforce such security initiatives, most of the country's top 20 builders now endorse the scheme because they see it as one way of marketing their new homes in a sluggish property market.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Too noisy fringe show closes early

A theatre group is expected to have to leave the Edinburgh Festival Fringe today two weeks early because its show is too noisy (Simon Tait writes).

In spite of efforts to comply with decibel limits set on Thursday afternoon, Freakshow Theatre's "Raving Groovy Party" was closed by police on Thursday and prevented from performing last night by the venue owner. Freakshow stands to lose £13,000. Brian Jordan, who has leased a former church renamed the Romy in Edinburgh's South Bridge area as a venue for 20 fringe shows, said: "The police said that if we went ahead the amplifying equipment could be confiscated and we might face criminal charges, and I couldn't afford to let that happen."

The company has an Arts Council grant for £17,000 to tour the show in the spring. It is a theatrical event in seven acts with a company of 20 using two rock bands. Alex McCulloch, administrator of Freakshow Theatre, said that Edinburgh District Council environmental officers had been invited to set decibel levels after police raided the show four times in six performances.

Midsummer night's scream, Weekend Times, page 1

Action on jail suicides

The Samaritans and other agencies are being encouraged to play a key role in attempts by the prison service to cut the number of suicides among prisoners in jails and young offender institutions. Prisoners are being trained as Samaritans to try to help younger, more vulnerable inmates while the organisation is assisting in training prison service staff to identify people with suicidal tendencies. Each prison has set up a suicide management group comprised of staff, inmates and a Samaritan while at a national level a suicide awareness unit has been formed at prison service headquarters. While the number of suicides in prison continues to worry officials and ministers, voluntary organisations say that the number of suicides among young men generally is rising. Leading article, page 11

Mentally ill 'at risk'

Poorly equipped local authorities will put the health of the mentally ill at risk when community care reforms begin next year, the Royal College of Psychiatrists said yesterday. In its reply to the government's white paper, *The Health of the Nation*, the college expresses "grave reservations" about the ability of local authorities to identify the most needy and to provide adequate services. The college wants a two-fold increase in trained psychiatrists and an immediate halt to the reduction of in-patient beds. Professor Andrew Sims, president of the college, said that better organisation of facilities for the mentally ill was an urgent priority. There should be more emphasis on the role of the consultant psychiatrist as "personal physician" and more co-operation between local health and social services.

Soccer star recovers



Mickey Thomas, left, the captain of Wrexham football club awaiting trial on charges of handling forged banknotes, left hospital yesterday after being treated for stab wounds following an attack by two men armed with a hammer and a screwdriver. The former Manchester United player was assaulted on Thursday night as he sat in his car with a woman, police said. The woman was arrested but released without charge. Detectives are still seeking the two assailants. Mr Thomas, 38, was attacked about 10.15pm when he parked his Volkswagen car in a country lane at Dyserth, near Prestatyn, Cwyd. He suffered a facial fracture and was stabbed 15 times in the lower body.

Bound body found

Detectives were yesterday investigating the death of a woman whose body was discovered tied up in a disused ward of a psychiatric wing at Maidstone General Hospital. A patient found the body of Joyce Fudge, 62, who used to receive treatment in the wing, on Thursday night. For almost three months she had been living in nearby Barming at a rehabilitation centre run by the Richmond Fellowship for Community Mental Health. A post mortem found that she died from asphyxiation. Police said there was no evidence so far of any sexual motive. Jon Wilks, unit general manager at the hospital, said: "The wing had been broken into. The woman was found with her hands tied behind her and a scarf around her neck." Kent police appealed to anyone who might have seen anything to contact them at the incident room on 0622 690690.

Bombs enquiry goes on

Sir John May is to hold a final series of public hearings next month on the Maguire case before sending his final report to ministers in October. He says he also expects his full report into the Guildford and Woolwich pub bombings to be published after the prosecution of three Surrey officers accused of conspiracy to pervert the course of justice. In a letter published in *The Times* today Sir John, chairman of the Guildford and Woolwich enquiry, says he has received the report of a committee looking at various scientific aspects of the Maguire case. Letters, page 11

RAF bases put on hold

The defence ministry has abandoned plans to transfer squadrons to RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge, Suffolk, when the United States Air Force leaves next year and the air bases might now be sold for development. The ministry was considering moving Harrier jump jets from RAF Wittering, Cambridgeshire, and Jaguar jets from RAF Coltishall, Norfolk, to Bentwaters and Woodbridge. But studies had shown that keeping the aircraft at their present bases was a cheaper option than relocation.

Mother remanded

A mother accused of murdering her two sons was remanded in custody yesterday. Tracey Patricia Evans, 31, of Pengehurst, East Sussex, is charged with murdering Nicholas, nine, and Lee, five, on Wednesday. She spoke only to acknowledge her name and address and the charges during the seven-minute hearing at Lewes magistrates' court. She was remanded until next Wednesday, Martin Mitten, for the defence, made no application for bail. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Major has a housing worry

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major would seem to have enough on his plate when he returns from his Spanish holiday tomorrow. Bosnia, Iraq, the French referendum on Maastricht and the threat to sterling will all demand his urgent attention. But first he has to find somewhere to live.

Workmen have descended on 10 Downing Street and are busy tearing the building apart in an attempt to strengthen it against terrorist attack. Windows have been ripped out and Mr Major's top-floor flat is in a mess.

Mr Major was due to spend the latter part of the summer at home in Great Stukeley while conducting a busy programme of regional tours and overseas visits. But the late decision to convene next week's conference in the capital on the former Yugoslavia, which will be chaired by the prime minister, has forced some hasty rethinking.

The prime minister will now take over a spare ministerial flat in Whitehall. Once the conference is over he should be able to revert to his original programme, returning to Downing Street after the Tory party conference in October.

After the IRA's mortar bomb attack on the cabinet room in the winter of last year, Mr Major is certain to regard the reinforcement of his London home, and the temporary inconvenience, as money well spent.

CORRECTIONS

An article in *Life & Times* (August 18) incorrectly stated that Terry Farrell's new building at Vauxhall Cross, London, would be occupied by M15: in fact it is for M16.

Yesterday's table of 60 state schools' A-level results wrongly attributed scores for Tunbridge Wells School, in Kent, to Tonbridge Grammar School.

The Duchess of York photographs

Royal family loses support

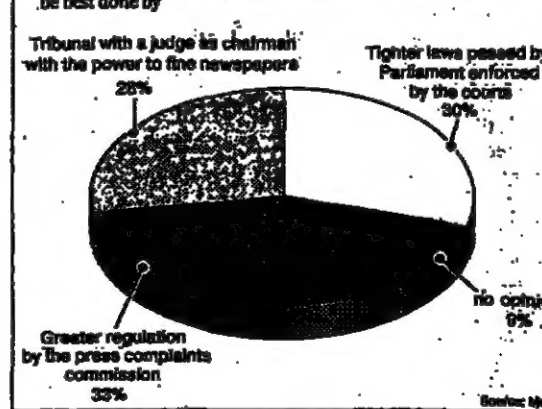
Continued from page 1

while 46 per cent thought it did.

When the poll focused on broadsheet newspapers such as *The Times* and the *The Guardian*, 67 per cent thought newspapers act responsibly and 11 per cent did not. For tabloid newspapers such as *The Sun* and the *Daily Mirror*, however, only 24 per cent of respondents said they behave responsibly and 67 per cent disagreed. Local and regional newspapers received the best agreement rating, 79 per cent.

The government is showing no enthusiasm for bringing forward a privacy law, despite the enquiry being conducted by Sir David Calcutt, QC, and the poll produces no

strong evidence of a desire for greater controls on the press. Forty per cent of those questioned said there was about the right amount of control over newspapers generally. However, 43 per cent thought there was too little and 9 per cent too much. There has been virtually no change in public opinion on that question over the past two years. For the tabloid newspapers, 53 per cent thought there was too little control.



Asked which of three options they would like to see if the conduct of the press was

to be more tightly controlled, 30 per cent opted for tighter laws passed by Parliament and enforced by the courts. Thirty-three per cent backed greater voluntary regulation by the Press Complaints Commission. And about a quarter of those questioned, 26 per cent, supported a tribunal with a judge as chairman and the power to fine newspapers, which the tribunal finds guilty.

Mr Mori interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,061 adults aged 18 plus face to face in 54 constituencies yesterday. Data was weighted to match the profile of the population. Copyright Mori/Times Newspapers.

Diary, page 10

Mellor to resist Tory calls for privacy law

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DAVID Mellor is expected to resist calls for a wide-ranging privacy law from Tory activists at the party conference in the autumn.

The national heritage secretary was recently at the centre of a furore over press conduct when a newspaper reported his telephone calls to Antonia de Sancha, an actress. However, he remains opposed to general legislation curbing the right of the press to disclose information on private lives.

Mr Mellor will reply to a debate on arts and media

matters. After disclosures about his affair with Miss de Sancha, he faces the delicate and potentially embarrassing task of dealing with the topic dispassionately.

Constituency concern is reflected in privacy motions tabled for the conference apparently framed after reports about the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales. The latest outcry over the Duchess of York will add fuel to the argument.

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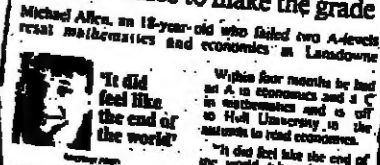
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Hurd warns Iraqis not to use jailed man as political pawn

BY NICHOLAS WATT

IRAQ was warned yesterday not to use the Briton jailed in Baghdad as a political pawn. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said that imprisoning Britons would not force the government to change its policy.

Mr Hurd described the seven-year sentence imposed on Paul Rida, 33, from Walthamstow, east London, as unjust and said that the government would maintain the pressure to free him. However, President Saddam Hussein had to comply with what the United Nations had laid down, he told BBC Radio Oxfordshire. "He has to allow his weapons to be inspected and destroyed and he can't destroy, or rocket or shell, his own people."

Mr Rida, catering manager for Taylor International Catering in Kuwait, was jailed on Thursday after being found guilty of illegally entering Iraq. Diplomats

believe that he accidentally drove over the border.

As soon as the sentence was announced, the Foreign Office lodged a protest with Ibrahim Zuhair, the Iraqi charge d'affaires in London. Last night, a Foreign Office spokesman said: "We have tossed the ball in his court and we are now waiting for a response. We will wait until next week, when we will step up the pressure again."

The Russian embassy in Baghdad, which represents British interests, has applied to visit Mr Rida in prison. "The Russians have been extremely helpful but the Iraqi authorities are obviously under no obligation to grant them access," the Foreign Office said.

Mr Rida's mother, Muriel, said that Saddam was playing a game of cat and mouse. "He has probably handed out a sentence of seven years so that he can turn around after three months and free my son so that everyone will think he is a good guy."

She was worried to hear that her son was having to rely on other prisoners for food. "I've been told that the prison doesn't provide any food. I've asked the Red Cross if I can make a donation to help to feed Paul and they're looking into that for me," she said. The family will be sending a message to Mr Rida via the Red Cross.

Some members of the family had taken the news of the prison sentence badly, she said. "My husband is hardly getting any sleep at night. His mother, who is 80, is devastated and we are very concerned for her welfare. My younger son, Phillip, was extremely upset after seeing the unpleasant picture of his brother on television."

Reacting to reports that her son had been tortured, Mrs Rida said: "It is disturbing to think that is happening. I am trying to keep calm and optimistic because I know that if I go off balance it takes a long time to recover."

Mr Rida's wife, Julie, said that she would fight for her husband's release. Neil Gerrard, Labour MP for Walthamstow, said after talking to her: "She is obviously very shocked, but I think she is coping remarkably well. I don't think she expected the seven-year sentence. She is concerned to find out exactly what happened and to put as much pressure on Iraq as possible to get him released. The most important thing now is that it is not allowed to be forgotten."

"I think the sentence was outrageous. There is nothing he would have done that would have justified any sentence like that. The most he has done is perhaps cross a frontier inadvertently. I think the Foreign Office is doing everything it can."

John Gibbs, head of Taylor International Services in Kuwait, said yesterday that it would have been impossible for Mr Rida to have strayed unknowingly into Iraq. "There is only one road north towards the Iraqi border and there are lots of checkpoints that you would have to go through on the Kuwaiti side."

Air warning, page 8



Placard protest: Suzi Hodson, left, and Beth Parry, student nurses at the Middlesex Hospital, who were among 2,000 health workers who took to the streets in London yesterday to oppose cuts in the region's hospitals. The march to the health department began at the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital at Euston, which is close at

the end of the month, where patients left their beds in support. The day of activity was organised by Nape, the capital's largest health union, and sister unions

Cohse and Nalco. Union leaders said that more than 1,000 redundancies were planned within the next few months and blamed health service reforms.

Thousands gather for Krishna festival

By LOUISE HIMALGO

MORE than 15,000 Hindu worshippers arrived at the village of Lechmore Heath in Hertfordshire last night to celebrate the birth of Krishna in what local residents hope will be one of the last festivals of its kind at the mock-Tudor temple of Bhaktivandana Manor.

Hindu leaders have said that the government "will have to send in tanks to stop us worshipping at this sacred place" after they lost the final round in the British courts earlier this year to maintain the temple. Britain's largest Hindu shrine, as a site for public worship and religious festivals.

"Many Hindus are deeply hurt by this action," Akhandadhi das, president of the temple, said. "The young in particular are very disturbed and there are calls for civil disobedience. We pray daily justice will prevail."

The authorities, however, were expecting no trouble last night as worshippers dressed in white kurtas, dhotis and gold-spangled saris arrived from around the country, bearing gifts of food and incense for the infant Krishna. Among them was the singer Boy George who had come to play musical offerings dedicated to Lord Krishna.

Police said that the festival was always a most peaceful affair although it did tend to create traffic jams.

Local residents and Conservative-controlled Hertsmere Borough Council have fought long and hard to have the festival, one of the most important in the Hindu calendar, stopped. They say that the thousands of devotees are a disruption to traffic and rural life.

Prison city where torture is common

Lin Jenkins talks to those who survived the pressures that await Paul Rida as he starts his sentence in an Iraqi prison

TORTURE, both physical and psychological, is an enduring feature of the regime at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad where, other Britons before Paul Rida have been interned and survived to tell the tale.

Douglas Brand, who experienced the full force of President Saddam Hussein's treatment of foreign prisoners when he was accused of spying after being caught trying to flee Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait, made some chilling observations yesterday. Not only would the conditions inside be appalling, but there was every likelihood that Mr Rida would have already suffered at the hands of the Iraqi secret police, the Mukhabarat, after arrest.

"The interrogation techniques were learnt at the hands of Ceausescu's secret police in Romania," said Mr Brand, who had a distinguished career in the Royal Marines, winning the Military Cross in Aden in 1964. He commanded a unit of the Special Boat Squadron before becoming an expert in underwater explosives and security. "At the best, you can consider them as pretty crude and they are not fanned by any thoughts of the Geneva Convention or legal process."

He knows only too well the pervading culture in the jail, as does Ian Richter, the last Briton to be released when finally freed after five and a half years in November 1991

following his sentence of life imprisonment on bribery charges.

A period of solitary confinement, beatings and intense mental pressure were, he said, "standard treatment". During interrogations, he would be deprived of food and his family and religion used against him. "I don't know how mentally strong he is, but if he has come through it in one piece you can consider he is pretty good," he said.

British prisoners enjoy certain privileges in a wing of the prison reserved for foreigners. Kurds, Shia Muslims, deserters from the forces and opponents of the government fare less well in their quarters. The International Committee of the Red Cross has access to the notorious prison, provided it does not discuss conditions there. When Mr Rida was last visited on August 15 he was said to be in good physical and mental health.

After allegedly visiting a military site, Daphne Parish was jailed in 1989, with the Observer journalist Farzad Bazoft. He was later executed. She said the jail was as big as a city. "He will be able to move around. He can probably even go jogging and it is very important that he keeps fit. You have to keep mentally and physically fit, that is very important. If you do that then you can cope with all the other things that get thrown at you."

Computer leads draughts champion

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

CHINOOK, the Canadian computer program, has taken the lead in the Silicon Graphics world draughts championship at the Park Lane hotel, London. Overnight the score had been one win each with 11 draws but in game 14 Chinook, playing with the white pieces, inflicted a second defeat on the world champion, Marion Tinsley, of Florida.

After 34 moves Dr Tinsley, a piece down and recognising the hopelessness of his position, resigned the game. The result confounds the predictions of all the draughts grandmasters who claimed before the match that Dr Tinsley would win overwhelmingly and probably not lose a single game. Instead, the champion is now trailing with only one win against the computer's two.

The games have been of a high quality, conducted in a depth of analysis that confounds even the top draughts experts. Several draughts masters and grandmasters were confidently predicting a drawn outcome just as Dr Tinsley was in the act of resigning the game. Even after Dr Tinsley had resigned, the other human masters were almost at a loss to explain his decision.

Dr Tinsley, 65, loses on average one game every ten years. Con McCormick, the Irish champion, said: "Dr Tinsley is playing against himself. Chinook has the strength of Tinsley 30 years ago."

David Levy, match organiser, said: "Chinook is now odds-on favourite to win. Dr Tinsley is becoming increasingly tired."

The two games lost by Dr Tinsley are the only games ever lost in an official title match by any human world champion against a machine in any mind sport.

Fake priest jailed for life over sex attack

A BOGUS priest whose bizarre series of crimes ended with a sex attack on a mother of four was jailed for life yesterday.

Lord McCuskey told John Cronin, 21, at the High Court in Edinburgh that he was imposing the sentence for the protection of the public. "In my judgment you are highly dangerous," he said. The life sentence did not mean that Cronin would never be released, the judge said; it was flexible and his case would be kept under review.

Cronin, formerly of Tranent, Lothian, posed as a priest in May and celebrated mass at St Mary's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Edinburgh, where he stole a purse and cash. He started a big police hunt when he told officers that he had spotted the escaped IRA terrorist Nessim Quinlivan in Edinburgh, and he tried to pervert the course of justice by pretending that he was Father Sean Mulligan of co. Cork to avoid prosecution.

Cronin used the disguise to enter the woman's home. He hit her repeatedly with a poker, forced her to commit indecent acts and robbed her. Lord McCuskey said the attack gave "clear warning of the nature of the risk to which the public are exposed when you are at liberty."

Cronin had admitted the offences at an earlier hearing, when the case was adjourned for a further psychiatric report. Neil Murray, QC, for Cronin, said yesterday that it would not be appropriate for the judge to take the unusual step of imposing a life sentence for a crime other than murder. He accepted that the assault was "monstrous" and merited a long jail sentence.

Lord McCuskey said that psychiatric reports showed that from the age of three Cronin's behaviour had been "outrageous, inexplicable and uncontrollable".

Doctors were unable to recommend treatment.

Customs warns Christmas bargain-hunters of £32 limit

THE lure of cheap Christmas presents bought early from recession-hit America, where the weakened dollar is now approaching two to the pound, could prove to be no more than fool's gold for those tempted by its apparent glimmer.

Stern-faced Customs and Excise officials last night warned British visitors to America to expect no sympathy if they heeded the siren song of cut-priced shopping and tried to bring back goods worth more than £32.

"They had been alarmed by a British Airways promotion urging people to fly to America and take advantage of the falling dollar to save 'up to 58 per cent' on the cost of a wide range of goods."

"This is no more than British Airways trying to get people to buy a ticket on their airline," a customs official said. "If anyone brings goods to the value of more than £32 from the United States into Britain they must first pay the duty, which can be as much as 14 per cent, plus another 17½ per cent VAT. If they try to smuggle them through they will generally be charged double."

British Airways is launching a sales drive to persuade people to buy return tickets to the eastern United States for

Shoppers lured to the US by the weak dollar could face a taxing time on their return, writes Harvey Elliott

£229 - £70 cheaper than last year and £150 cheaper than current summer fares. Jim Callery of BA said: "With exchange rates close to two dollars to the pound, the USA offers real bargains in terms of accommodation, sightseeing, dining and, in particular, shopping." He listed a range of goods which are far cheaper.

On the face of it, it is easy to calculate that a mountain bike bought for just over half the price it would cost in Britain, together with a few compact discs, cameras and computer software could quickly compensate for the cost of the flight while filling the family's Christmas stockings.

However, the sums seem rather different when the Customs and Excise people have had their slice. "Why not go to Europe instead," a helpful customs man said. "You can spend £420 from any EC country without having to pay VAT and that limit will soon disappear completely."

goods, even in the handful of shops not offering high summer sales. "There are many more bargains to be obtained in the USA and not just in New York," said Mr Callery, anxious to persuade as many potential passengers as possible to part with their £229 for flights to New York, Newark, Washington and Boston from the beginning of October until next March year and the £309 it would cost to fly to and from the west coast.

American Airlines, which is in a desperate head to head battle for custom with British Airways, was quick to point out that they have been offering such fares since April.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Exclusive A-levels survey

The waiting and the worrying are over. The A-level results have arrived, and in homes all over the country there is celebration or gloom. Tomorrow, The Sunday Times publishes the definitive list of the schools with the best A-level performances. The top school will be named, and profiled - and data will be provided on more than 200 other schools around the country. The success of grammar schools, comprehensives and the new 'opt-outs' will be examined. It is essential reading for every parent.

Special A-levels survey, don't miss tomorrow's Sunday Times

'Bubbles' bows out to a Sinatra song

By BRIL FROST

IN DEATH as in life Viscountess Rothermere, the renowned society hostess, insisted on doing things her way yesterday.

During her funeral yesterday the coffin of Lady Rothermere, widely known as "Bubbles", the wife of the third Viscount Rothermere, proprietor of the Daily Mail, was carried from the church to the strains of the Frank Sinatra standard New York, New York.

His voice filled the nineteenth century church in High Hurstwood, East Sussex, as members of the family filed out to the graveyard where she was buried. The viscount led the procession of mourners, which included family friends Nigel Dempster, Sir David English and Lord Grade.

"Bubbles", a famous party-giver and former actress, died of a heart attack at the family villa in the south of France, last week. She was



Lord Rothermere and his daughter Camilla

63. During yesterday's funeral service her children spoke warmly of their mother, who was born Patricia Matthews. Her son, Jona-

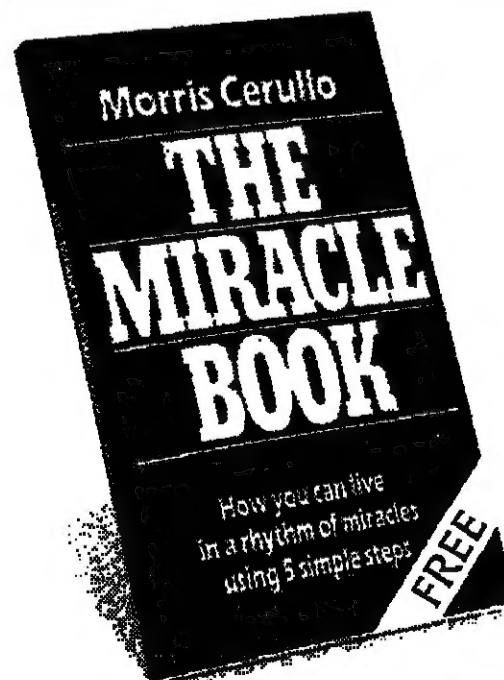
than, said: "My mother's death has left a gap in my life. I will never be able to fill it. I am glad I was able to be with her during her last days."

Her daughter Sarah said: "My mother was a wonderful woman. She attracted people to her with her infectious personality."

"Underneath her public personality was a warm depth and a tremendous generosity of heart. My mother was a deeply sensitive, religious and spiritual person as well as the colourful figure we shall all miss in our lives."

Canon Bill Peters, who conducted the marriages of the couple's two daughters, said of the viscountess: "Patricia was one of God's fire-works in this world. She was full of colour, full of sparkle and full of crackle. Thank God for her and that rich life."

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MISSION LONDON

Defences dropped after 150 years

Man abandons Spurn Head to the elements

By PAUL WILKINSON

A 150-YEAR battle to preserve Spurn Head, the peculiar geographical feature that sticks its sandy tongue three miles out into the Humber estuary, has finally been conceded.

Planners have agreed that the cost of sea defences is no longer worthwhile and that nature should be allowed to reshape the slender peninsula as it had been doing until man intervened in the middle of the last century. They were convinced after a survey by Hull University showed that although the narrow spit might be breached at its landward end and the headland move several hundred yards westwards, there would be no serious repercussions either for Spurn Head itself or the Humber behind it.

"It was a straight assessment on commercial grounds" said David Kilpatrick, manager of the Holderness Coast Protection Project, a group drawn from all the organisations with interests in the area. "Coastal

defence is a costly business and none of the bodies involved believed the need was so great as to warrant the expenditure." A new sea wall could cost up to £8 million a mile.

The decision was immediately attacked by Harold Wainling, a leading figure on Humberside County Council. He said: "I want Spurn Head preserved as it is and shall be launching a campaign to achieve that. It is unique."

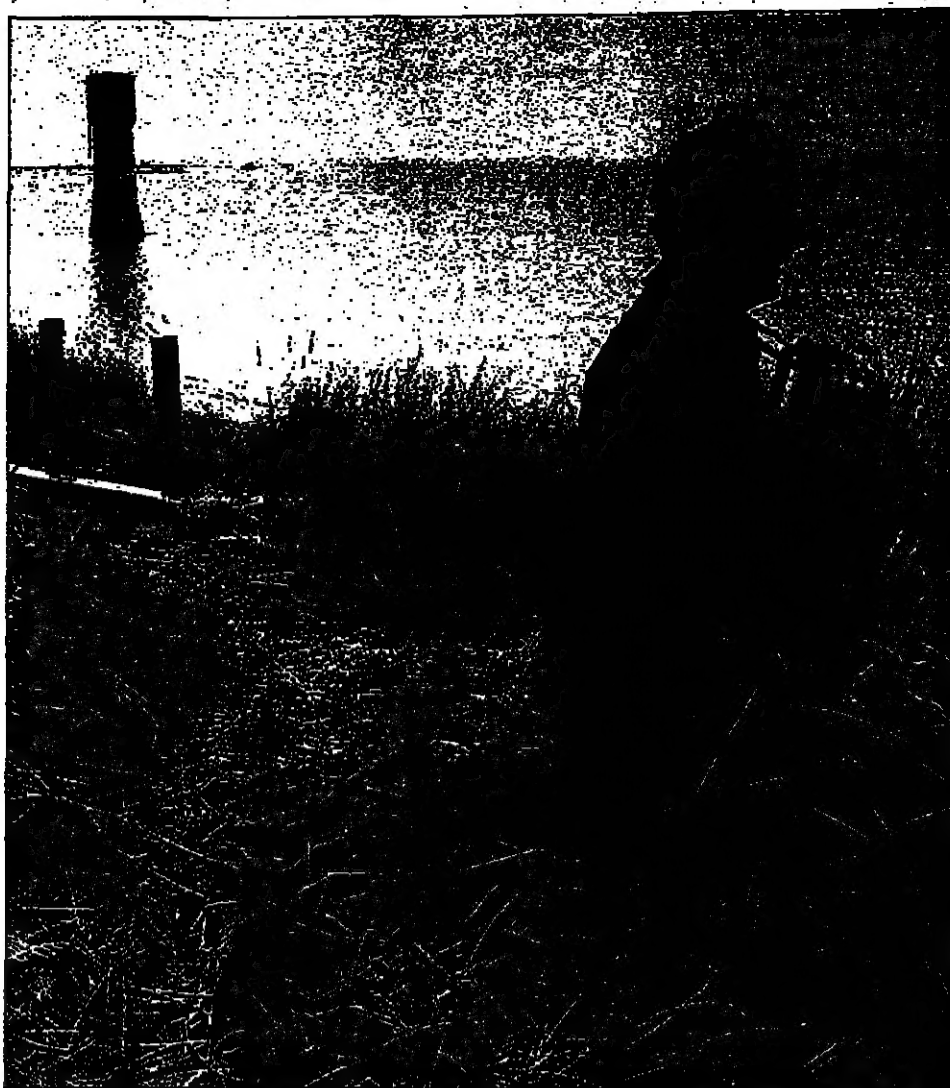
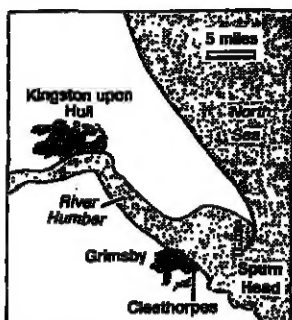
The sand dunes are owned by the Yorkshire Wildlife

Trust, which runs a reserve known internationally for its migrating terns. Adjoining mud flats contain a site of special scientific interest and it is also home to the Humber pilot station and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution's only permanently manned base in the country.

The wild, windswept area attracts more than 100,000 tourists a year but only a few drive the full length of the causeway to visit the remote lifeboat and pilot stations.

Mr Kilpatrick said that fierce rip tides along the Holderness coast are eroding the sandy shore north of the peninsula at two yards a year. As the land regresses, it leaves Spurn Head more and more exposed, especially at the slender neck linking it to the mainland.

Until the 1950s, the sea wall was maintained by the military who regarded Spurn as a natural defence and gun position against attackers threatening the Humber ports.



Alone with the sea: an ornithologist looks out from Spurn Head

Bottomley must set limits of health market

The health secretary must decide soon how tight a rein to keep on the NHS. Jeremy Laurance examines the options

Somewhere on an Isle of Wight beach this summer, Virginia Bottomley will consider a paper that could have a profound influence on the future of the health service. The document, prepared by the health service management executive, considers the future of the regional health authorities. But the health secretary's conclusions will affect more than a few managerial jobs: they will determine how far the health service market is to be allowed to run, the limits to competition and the protection offered to patients when things go wrong.

The fundamental issue is how tight a rein to keep on the market. London hospitals are already being forced to close beds and cut jobs, and pressures will soon mount elsewhere.

One option is to let the purchasers set their demands and the trust hospitals compete to meet them, while the government takes the flak when the losers are forced to close. In a free market of that kind, there would be no place for a regional tier of management and the division between health authority purchasers and hospital providers would be retained all the way up the hierarchy. A possible model is provided by New Zealand, where there are separate cabinet posts for health purchasing and hospital provision.

Mrs Bottomley is opposed to this option. She dislikes the concepts of "market" and "competition" as applied to the health service, and is appalled at the notion that anyone would think that it might be sold off.

She also has a new agenda for the health service set out in the white paper *The Health of the Nation*. For the first time, targets for improvements in health have been established, which will require the co-operation of purchasers and providers. This will entail a level of planning impossible in a free market.

The purchasing and providing arms are brought together by the health service chief executive, Duncan Nichol. While there are 150 hospital trusts, reporting directly to the management executive, the task is manageable. But there could eventually be more than 600 trusts, and only Mr Nichol to keep them in line. There must therefore be an intermediate tier of

management to which trusts would be accountable.

At present, half a dozen "zonal outposts", satellites of the management executive, monitor the trusts. Alongside them, the 14 regional health authorities, with their independent chairmen and non-executive directors, are developing the purchasing role of districts. Responsibilities overlap and the lines of accountability are unclear.

The best way out of this confusion would be a merger of the regions and outposts to form a regional tier of eight or ten regulatory authorities. They would ensure that a hospital losing money on psychiatric care, for example, could not cut provision without regard to the needs of the community. Equally, a district purchaser would be restrained from imposing unreasonable demands on a hospital.

But the exact role of these new regulatory authorities will depend on their composition. Mrs Bottomley has to decide whether to lean towards the managerial model of the outposts or whether to retain the more independent character of the regional health authorities.

Politically there would be advantages to retaining the regional authorities as a buffer between ministers and the front-line service when things go wrong. But the trusts, having so recently escaped from control by the regions, will not welcome being brought within their bureaucratic ambit again.

The fear is that Mrs Bottomley, anxious to keep the "nose" level in the service down, may opt to leave the situation as it is rather than impose further reform. But without clear lines of accountability, the health market will not be managed properly and patients, not managers, may be the losers.



Bottomley: faces some heavy holiday reading

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Action on ship safety demanded

By LOUISE HINDALOO

THE father of two children who died from sewage fumes as they slept aboard the Swansea-Cork ferry called yesterday for new EC-wide safety standards on ferries using European ports.

Garry Tomlins said in a letter to the *Irish Times* that the death of his children, Katherine, 15, and James, 12, had been caused by the "lamentable quality of the management systems" and would not have happened if the Irish government had insisted on "proper professional standards of care for passengers". Dublin should now take the lead in ensuring the highest standards of safety and management on all European ferry companies, he said.

A consultant architect from Bedford also disclosed yesterday that he had reported the smell of hydrogen sulphide to an officer on board the French-built *Celtic Pride* three weeks before the incident. Paddy Deasy, chief executive of the Irish operators, had said after the event that there had been no reports of noxious gas.

Tom Hancock had been travelling with his family on an overnight crossing to Cork when he was "woken by a foul smell" which he recognised as a potentially lethal concentration of hydrogen sulphide. He notified the duty officer and urged action to be taken.

The ferry company said that all complaints would be investigated but there would no comment on individual cases until after an Irish government investigation.

Bus driver jailed for drinking

A NATIONAL Express driver who set out to drive a 72-seat coach from London to Penzance while almost three times over the limit was jailed yesterday for two weeks.

An off-duty policeman saw Terrance Long, 48, of Perranporth, Cornwall, trying to start his vehicle at Victoria coach station after drinking with other drivers. Horseferry Road court, central London, was told.

Terence Maher, the magistrate, said that with the weight of the coach "he may as well have been driving a bomb".

Garry Wareham, for the prosecution, said there was only one passenger on board at the time. Long was taken to a police station, where a breathalyser test showed he was within two points of triple the limit.

Anthony Moore, for the defence, said Long had turned to drink after his divorce three years ago. "He drinks because of a problem and the situation arose because of his illness. In my view, the cause is diplopia."

Long, a coach driver for five years, had been banned from drinking alcohol as a condition of bail set at an earlier hearing. He pleaded guilty to being drunk in charge of his coach on August 7.

The magistrate told him: "I have to impose a short, immediate custodial sentence to reflect the truly horrendous nature of this offence." Long was also banned from driving for 18 months and advised to join Alcoholics Anonymous on release.

THE TIMES
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Male hospital orderly wins £1,000 in sex prejudice case

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A MALE hospital orderly has been awarded £1,000 after a health authority was found guilty of sexual discrimination by failing to offer him one of four posts given to women.

The award highlights a growing trend of men seeking advice from the Equal Opportunities Commission, alleging that they are the victims of sex discrimination, particularly when applying for jobs traditionally dominated by women.

Lynda Carr, director of the commission's employment department, said that 40 per cent of enquiries now came from men questioning the employment practices of companies in service industries. In the first seven months of this year, there was a 10 per cent increase in the number of letters from men complaining about recruitment practices and alleging discrimination. The commission stressed yesterday that it was dedicated to opposing sex discrimination against men and women.

Brendan McConnell, the theatre orderly awarded £1,000, said that he not worried about taking his case to the commission, although he knew that his main role was in helping women. "They were able to give me a lot of assistance. I hope what they did for me will encourage other men to come forward if they think there has been discrimination against them."

Mr McConnell, 26, of Belfast, is the second high profile case in which men in Northern Ireland have won sex discrimination claims. Last year, Robert Hamilton, of Co. Down, was awarded £850 after a local firm told him that its advertised print operator's job was "only for housewives".

Petra Sheela, a legal officer with the commission in Belfast, said: "Employers still make traditional assumptions about what work is appropriate for men and women. It is especially in areas like health care that men may experience discrimination. The fact that they have a remedy in law is sometimes forgotten, but employers should remember that traditional views on what are 'men's jobs' and 'women's jobs' can lead to unlawful discrimination."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Man posed as woman to wed lover

A man pretended to be a woman and went through a register office wedding ceremony so that his male lover could stay in Britain, a court was told yesterday.

Kim Brooks, born a man but now living as a woman, borrowed his sister's birth certificate to marry Turgut Rencher in Walsall, West Midlands, in October 1989. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. Rencher's permission to remain in Britain was extended. The sham wedding was undetected until police, were tipped off by transvestites in London last year.

Brooks, 30, and Rencher, 27, both of Clapton, east London, were given nine-month jail sentences, suspended for two years, after admitting making a false statement to the court. Brooks also admitted making a false declaration. His sister, Gillian Pashby, 35, of Donington, Shropshire, was given a conditional discharge after admitting causing a false statement to be made.

Driver sues BR

Thomas Abbott, 48, a train driver, of Sale, Greater Manchester, is to sue British Rail for trauma suffered after his express train killed a teenager in Stoke-on-Trent earlier this year. He says that he was made to continue his journey, despite being in shock, because no relief drivers were available.

Police injured

Sergeant Ken Foot, 40, was slashed across the face with a knife and PC Christopher Sloan, 23, was cut on the wrist while trying to arrest a man in Sydenham, southeast London. Neither was badly injured. A man has since been arrested.

Rape charge

Philip John William Miller, 38, a minicab driver, of Gipsy Hill, southeast London, appeared before Tower Bridge magistrates, charged with raping and falsely imprisoning a woman aged 26. He was remanded in custody until September 18.



Collision courses: Miki Uozumi, left, Hiromi Inamura and Mayuko Kitamura, studying at the International Language Centre, outside King's College yesterday

Crowded Cambridge tries to curb language schools

CAMBRIDGE, deluged by a summer tourist invasion that sometimes appears in danger of sinking the city beneath the surrounding fens, is looking to reduce the number of foreign students on language courses. The city council has organised a survey of the courses to back its campaign for a system of registration.

While the university is on its Easter and summer vacations, thousands of European and Japanese teenagers move in. Course organisers hire university accommodation, church halls and schools. The courses are commercially run and not connected with the university, but many overseas parents assume that they are.

The growing tide of foreign students has forced the university city to look at ways of cutting numbers, David Young reports

standing in great hordes on the pavements, making it impossible for people to pass by. The city does not have the facilities to keep these young people amused after their courses are over for the day.

They do not have the access to the facilities that the university students have. Among the students now attending summer school courses is a group of Japanese women enrolled for a course that they thought would take place in Oxford. Each has paid £3,000 for tuition fees, accommodation, air fares and a programme of day-trips.

evenings. We have also found that we are surrounded by other Japanese, which is not what we thought would happen."

Margaret Babcock, the city tourism manager, said: "We must be aware of the benefits that these foreign students bring to the city, but in the peak months we are inundated. We feel that there should be some form of registration and control."

BR cuts rail link options to ten

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

MORE than a hundred options for the final section of the Channel tunnel high speed rail link between Delfing in Kent and King's Cross station in London have been reduced to ten, it was disclosed yesterday.

The final two or three options will be submitted to the government in December, in expectation of a decision on the route in the spring. The disclosure coincides with confirmation that Ford motor company has written to John MacGregor, the transport secretary, complaining about British Rail's proposals to run the rail link through the company's manufacturing works at Dagenham in Essex.

Minimising the rail link's impact on Ford's plant is only one hurdle facing Gill Howarth, the managing director of Union Railways, the recently created British Rail subsidiary responsible for building the rail link. Immediately after the Ford works, the rail link runs close to the site of a proposed power station and an area of east London designated for 6,500 houses.

Local opposition to BR's plans is expected to grow considerably once the route has been announced. Most of the remaining route variations are thought to lie between Rainham Marshes, Barking, and Dagenham, although BR has still not yet decided whether to put the last section of the link between Stratford and King's Cross in a tunnel or run it overland alongside the north London railway.

Each of the final options will be submitted to ministers with a comprehensive route appraisal, detailing the cost, environmental impact, scope for economic regeneration, transport benefits, and revenue generating potential.

By KERRY GILL

crashed in the inner Hebrides after travelling north across Wales and the west of Scotland before disappearing.

A fragment of the rock could be lying in someone's back garden on the islands of Tiree, Jura or Mull or, perhaps more likely, has plummeted into the sea.

Dr John Mason, of the British Astronomical Association in London, has received hundreds of calls from as far afield as Bristol, Cardiff, Sheffield, Angelsey, Stranraer and Fort William from people who saw the glow of the object which was so bright that it lit up the sky on Sunday night.

"I don't think we have had an event as important as this in ten years," he said. "If we can find a remnant it will greatly add to our knowledge of inter-planetary debris reaching the atmosphere," he said. "What we can say for certain is that it was not a piece of man-made space junk. It must have been a natural piece of inter-planetary rock which had been orbiting the sun and has been pulled into the earth's gravity."

The association hopes to piece together all the information about the meteorite. From its path and the rate of descent over a certain area it should be possible to work out

a possible drop zone. Dr Mason said it seemed to have been visible until it was over the Firth of Clyde or even further north.

He said the meteorite's luminosity was caused by the enormous energy it built up as it passed through the sky before disappearing from view as it decelerated and free-fell to the ground.

"Some people who saw it said it turned night into day and caused the ground to light up," Dr Mason said. "There have also been reports of it breaking into fragments that faded out. We have to work out the 'end point', at which it became non-luminous. If that point was, say, 15 to 20 miles up, there is a chance it will have survived and if we can work out the latitude and longitude we may find a surviving fragment."

Although the meteorite was the size of a car when first seen, any remaining fragment would be a tenth of the original. "These 'fire ball' events are fairly rare," Dr Mason said. He emphasised that there was little point in people scouring the countryside for a piece of meteorite. "It would be very unlikely, unless someone had it fall through their greenhouse, that they would find it by looking casually."

Judge frees mortgage-trap arsonist

A JUDGE took pity yesterday on a man who set fire to his home the day before it was to be repossessed by a bank.

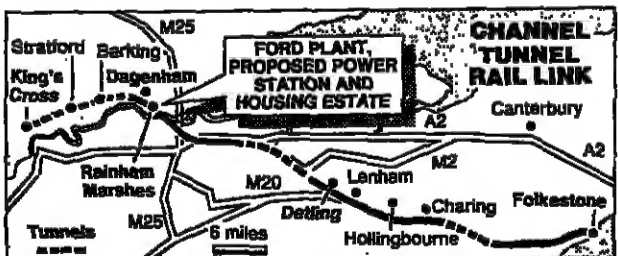
Darren Kerry, 23, and his two brothers wanted to sell the house for £63,000 to clear their debts and had found a buyer, Oxford Crown Court was told. However, Citibank refused to sanction the deal because it said it was still owed another £3,000.

Judge Medd told Kerry, of Littlemore, Oxford, that people usually went to prison for setting fire to homes and putting others' lives at risk. He was satisfied, however, that this was out of character. "The position you were put in when Citibank refused to accept £63,000 I can understand. It must have been frustrating and infuriating to a degree."

Kerry was given a 12-month prison sentence suspended for two years. He pleaded guilty to arson and being reckless as to whether lives would be endangered on March 23. Roger Graham, for the prosecution, said Kerry bought the terraced house in Cowley, Oxford, in July 1990 with his two brothers but was made redundant as a tyre fitter within 12 months. Arrears built up and the day before the bank was to repossess the house he set fire to the living room curtains after drinking. He alerted neighbours as flames leapt from the house.

Jonathan Coode, for the defence, said Citibank had been extremely foolish. The decision had been the last straw for Kerry.

Outside court, Kerry said he was pleased by the sentence. "But I did not deserve to go to prison. You have to understand the pressure people are under when their house is to be repossessed." Citibank said later: "We have no record of any formal offer or interest from potential purchasers in Mr Kerry's property."



Meteorite takes the high road

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Yeltsin predicts hard times but rules out chance of a new coup

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin warned Russians yesterday that they faced a tough autumn and predicted that the opposition would "start their political games again" in October. He forecast, however, that the worst could be over by the beginning of next year. "I have a gut feeling that we will get through and that 1993 will be easier," he said.

Mr Yeltsin was speaking at a press conference in Moscow to mark the first anniversary of the failed coup attempt. It was his first formal press conference in Moscow for more than a year, and he used it not only to prepare Russians for further reforms but also to reveal new details of the coup and to jab at Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet president. He also had some cheer to offer disillu-

sioned sections of Russia's fledgling free press, promising to override the Russian parliament and hand the *Izvestia* newspaper, complete with its property, to its staff.



Yeltsin: a sideswipe at Mikhail Gorbachev

On the economy, Mr Yeltsin said that the mass privatisation of state industry was the priority and noted that the distribution of privatisation vouchers, each worth 10,000 roubles (£34 at the current rate), would start at the beginning of October, the month when greatest social tension was predicted. He said he

hoped the scheme, which offers a chance to every Russian to own a small part of state industry or exchange the voucher for cash, would reduce the chances of unrest. Some have predicted mass unemployment for the autumn as enterprises that shut or are transferred to short time over the summer fail to reopen or return to full working.

Reminiscing about the three days of the coup last August, Mr Yeltsin said there was much that only he knew. Apparently sniping at Mr Gorbachev, Mr Yeltsin said that so far as he was concerned the coup had come completely out of the blue but, he added, it had not been such a surprise to everyone — and not just to those now in the Matrosskaya Tishina prison, where the coup plotters are held.

Mr Yeltsin said that his chief task had been to "outwit" Vladimir Kryuchkov, the chairman of the KGB, whom he described as "undoubtedly the main initiator and organiser" of the coup attempt. He said the most dangerous moment was when General Varenikov, chief of the Soviet land forces, had rung Marshal Yazov from Ukraine and screamed down the telephone at him: "Why haven't you killed Yeltsin yet, why have you not stormed the White House?"

The main difficulty for the Russian side was to find a way of extracting Mr Kryuchkov from the Kremlin because so long as he and the plotters were there they were safe. They finally managed it by insisting that the emergency committee should produce written proof that President Gorbachev was unable to carry out his duties.

After much argument, Mr Kryuchkov agreed to fly to Foros and obtain something in writing, so long as Mr Yeltsin went with him. The Russian parliament, however, refused to let the president go and sent Aleksandr Russkoi,

the vice-president, instead. At Belbek airport in the Crimea, Mr Kryuchkov and the others were arrested.

Mr Yeltsin admitted that he had not yet been able to overcome the paralysis in the Russian government that was delaying reforms, but he ruled out absolutely the possibility of a second coup this winter. Asked "what force is capable of organising a coup", he replied: "There is no such force. As long as people continue to believe, they will have patience, and they still believe."

He emphasised, however, that no amount of foreign aid would help Russia if it could not help itself and he paid special tribute to Italy which, he said, held first place for economic help to Russia. He also expressed disappointment with the Japanese. "Japan is unfortunately in last place," he said. The Japanese have made known that they will not commit themselves to large-scale investment in Russia until Russia agrees to a change in the status of the disputed southern Kurile islands.



March of tribute: a guard of honour leads a procession of Russian officials, headed by Yegor Gaidar, the prime minister, past the tomb of the three coup attempt victims on the anniversary of their death

Maastricht stirs French peasants into revolt

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN THE GARTEMPE VALLEY

Jacques, the mayor of the Poitou village where I spend several weeks each summer, will not be voting for the Maastricht treaty in France's referendum next month. He is a Gaullist and "nobody could be more European than I", but the treaty is a "mess". The Europe foreseen by the treaty, he says, is an undemocratic botch run by Brussels technocrats.

A peasants' revolt against those technocrats and all their works is brewing in the French countryside. The sim-

mering anger against both Paris and Brussels is the unnoticed factor that may upset President Mitterrand's calculation that he can rescue the Maastricht treaty by calling for a resounding French vote of confidence.

However, in Poitou and other poor rural areas the "no" bandwagon rolled before ministers came back from the Côte d'Azur. The referendum is turning into the opportunity for the silent population of the tattered farms and dusty sunflower

fields to tell their masters how they feel about the obliteration of the world they have known all their lives.

Poitou is the heartland of grassroots grievances that may not break the surface until huge farmers' demonstrations planned for the late stages of the referendum campaign. The soil is poor and the past three summers have seen droughts. Small holdings are too tiny to be economic. A walk through any hamlet will reveal milking equipment inside cavern-

ous, gloomy barns that has not been seen in British farms since the 1950s. Earlier this summer, southern farmers bricked up the gate of the Avignon holiday home of the icily regal Elisabeth Guigou, France's European affairs minister, in an evocative display of contempt for France's condescending Socialist technocrats.

The only Maastricht posters visible in our commune are small signs in the verge planted by the almost

defunct Communist Party, which is fighting for a "no" vote. Questions about Maastricht are generally answered by a bemused or faintly embarrassed shrug. There is no alternative to change, but that is not the way Jacques and his constituents see the agenda of the referendum campaign. The government has "protected traditional country life and, they believe, should do so again. For them, the stew of debate over Maastricht is another sign that Paris is not listening."

Bjorn Borg contests debt claim

Eleven Swedish companies are suing the former tennis star Bjorn Borg for debts totalling £388,000 incurred by his now defunct fashion and design business, officials said in Nacka district court, near Stockholm.

Borg, 36, five times Wimbledon champion, contests the claims, saying that he did not personally guarantee the debts and is now "more or less bankrupt". In a second lawsuit, former business associate Lars Skadde has begun proceedings against Borg, claiming £40 million damages arising out of the collapse of the business group.

King Hussein of Jordan is resting comfortably in a Minnesota hospital after doctors removed one of his kidneys.

The former Philippines president, Ferdinand Marcos, has upped his hospital bills in Hawaii (about £100,000 before he died in 1989) which could be an obstacle to bringing his body home. Sol Vanz, a spokesman for his widow, Imelda, said.

With actors dressed as his creations Bugs Bunny and Porky Pig on hand, the animator Isador "Fris" Freiler was honoured with a Hollywood Walk of Fame star in Los Angeles on the eve of his 87th birthday.

Michael Jackson will take his world tour to Romania next month in what is billed as the biggest performance yet by a Western pop star in the formerly communist country.

The trial of 18 former communist Albanian leaders, including Nedumije Hoxha, the widow of Albania's former Stalinist leader, Enver Hoxha, accused of corruption and abuse of power, has been adjourned after prosecutors requested more time to investigate the charges.

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UN centre hit as shelling of Sarajevo intensifies

By Robert Seely and Dessa Trevisan in Belgrade

AT LEAST six people were killed and more than 20 wounded yesterday after a mortar bomb attack on Sarajevo city centre. The Bosnian capital was hit by mortars, grenades and machinegun fire after the worst day of fighting for a month. The city is without electricity and suffering from shortages.

During street battles between rival Muslim and Serbian factions, five mortar bombs fell in the district between the Bosnian government building and the city's main market place. The Tito barracks, home of the Ukrainian United Nations contingent, was repeatedly hit, destroying roofs and several UN vehicles.

A doctor at one hospital in Sarajevo said 13 civilians had been injured by the attack, seven seriously. The Belgrade news agency, Tanjug, reported that during the 24 hours until noon on Thursday 41 people were killed and 202 injured throughout the republic. Eleven of the dead and 55 of the wounded came from Sarajevo alone.

The most intense fighting in the capital flared in the suburbs of Hrasno and Nedzarici, where buildings were extensively hit. Battles were also raging in other parts of the republic. However, despite the upturn in the violence, the United Nations relief operation continued as normal with 23 flights into the Bosnian capital.

In Belgrade, leaders of the rump Yugoslav state and of the Bosnian Serbs yesterday set out their agendas for next week's London peace talks. In an interview with *The Times*, Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs and central in implementing the ethnic cleansing policy, said that he would present a "comprehensive solution" to the war in Bosnia.

Fighting continues to rage elsewhere in Bosnia. Nevesinje, a Serb-held town 44 miles southwest of Sarajevo, was shelled by Muslim and Croat artillery, Tanjug reported. There was no word on casualties. Tanjug also said that artillery duels occurred in the Trebinje and Dubrovnik area and in the area of Capljina, Stokat and Mostar in Herzegovina.

In Kosovo, there were reports from Serbian police that Albanians were arming themselves with grenades, rockets and guns in expectation of impending violence with the Serbian authorities and militia.

Tadeusz Mazowiecki, former Polish prime minister, named by the UN last week to study human rights violations in what was Yugoslavia, flew to the Croatian capital Zagreb yesterday, a UN spokesman reported. In the Yugoslav parliament, Milan Panic, the prime minister, reversed an earlier decision to recognise as international boundaries Yugoslavia's former internal borders.

Belgrade yesterday criticised Germany for its support for a Yugoslav "war crimes" trial, saying it should first bring its own Nazi criminals to justice. Constantine Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, said Athens was halting oil exports to all northern neighbours — Yugoslavia, Albania and Bulgaria — to enforce UN sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro. The announcement came after European press reports accused Greece of providing Serbia with thousands of tonnes of oil through the northern city of Salonika.

Serbia's eastern neighbour, Bulgaria, also tightened the noose by limiting private car journeys into Yugoslavia to try to halt petrol smuggling in violation of sanctions.

Desire to live in harmony survives

Roger Boyes detects signs that Yugoslavs can still end up as peaceful neighbours

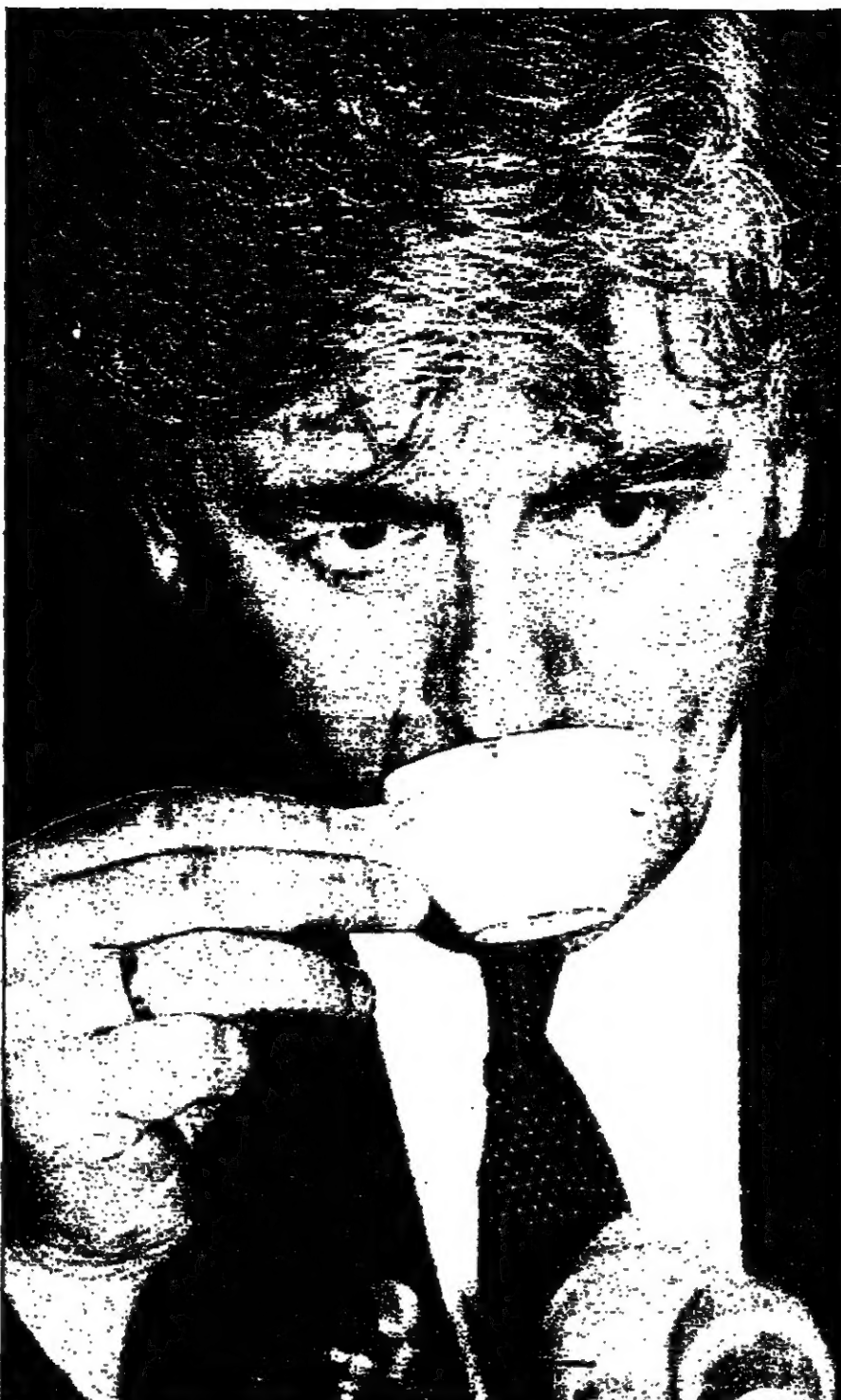
CAN the peoples of Yugoslavia ever live together again? It is difficult to imagine in a region ablaze. Trawl the crowds of Bosnian refugees in Zagreb's Red Cross headquarters wanting to send 25-word formula letters to imprisoned relatives and the answer seems clear: the war has gone too far. A shattered family is a shattered nation.

Then there is a dissonant voice. A Bosnian grandfather, a civil servant from a village near Gorazde, says he wants to go back. This is the second time his house has been razed by Serb Chetniks — the first time was in 1941 — and he is willing to rebuild again. "What is the choice — to be like the Kurds?" If going back means making an arrangement with new Serbian overlords, then so be it, he says.

The elderly man may not be typical but he speaks for a significant body of opinion. Too much has been invested in the past to seek a new future in the West. "We want to return to any piece of scrap land in Bosnia," said a 19-year-old refugee from Poca, near Gorazde, quoted on Croatian radio.

Serbs are regarded by some as enemies and by others as nostalgically remembered neighbours and friends. The balance is hostile to the Serbs, but is shifting. "You can notice a feeling common to both Croatian and Bosnian refugees that Serbs perhaps do not want to do what they are doing," a United Nations official in Zagreb says.

Mladen Klemencic, a Zagreb demographer, has proposed that when, and if, ethnic cleansing is reversed, that mixed Serb-Croat regions could be regulated much as the Swedish minority is treated in Finland, according to ethnic percentages in each community. The time for that kind of solution may have passed; the necessary trust has withered. But there is a desire, among a few, to live together again and international peacemakers have to start from that small base. "To denounce ethnic cleansing is not sufficient," said a Western diplomat in Zagreb. "One has to put forward an alternative vision of a multicultural society. That means protecting every community, including Serbs, that feels threatened and damping down the natural desire for revenge."



Bitter cup: Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, sipping coffee in Belgrade yesterday. He said all sides must be treated equally

Greece indulges in nationalist myths

FROM JOHN CARR IN ATHENS

WHEN the Greeks wave their blue-and-white flag, neighbours sometimes see red. As in the case of Greece's Olympic gold medal-winning weightlifter, Pyrrhos Dimas.

Born in Albania 21 years ago, Mr Dimas was one of 150,000 ethnic Greeks who over the past two years have fled communist and post-communist squalor by streaming over the border into what they consider their cultural — if not actual — motherland.

Mr Dimas's electrifying cry of "For Greece!" as he lifted 82.5 kg at Barcelona under the Greek colours triggered a wave of nationalist breast-beating among the public. When some Greek government ministers called the heavily ethnic Greek south of Albania a "subjugated land", Tirana got touchy.

Did Mr Dimas formally renounce his Albanian citizenship when he fled to Greece? Nobody seems to know. Tirana is claiming Greece's athletic hero as an Albanian citizen. The Greeks retort that, since he voluntarily competed under the Greek colours and has a Greek passport, he is Greek and that is that.

Down in the tail-end of the Balkans, the Greeks have caught the nationalist bug as badly as anyone. While the government wants the world to believe Greece is an oasis of Western democratic logic in the mad Balkan madroom, the Greeks themselves appear to be acting otherwise.

When ethnic Greek candidates made gains in Albanian municipal elections last month, Greek newspapers proudly printed photographs of the candidates unfurling huge Greek flags in their southern Albanian villages. Yet Greece's own Turkish-speaking Muslim minority near the Turkish border is not allowed to call itself ethnic Turkish, and any Muslim unfurling a Turkish flag in public risks jail.

Extremes of emotion have clouded what is a double standard in Athens' ethnic minorities policies. Several generations of Greeks have grown up on one of the stickiest of the world's irredentisms: the issue of "Northern

Epiros," which includes what is now most of southern Albania up to the port of Vlorë. Though undeniably a part of the Greek world since ancient times, it was incorporated into Albania by big power agreement earlier this century.

Associations of ethnic Greeks from Albania based in Athens make no bones about their desire to see that region eventually back in the Greek fold. "The territorial question is not over," Constantine Gikas, secretary of the Northern Epiros Association, born in Albania, says.

Athens routinely dismisses Albanian claims that an Albanian-speaking minority in northwestern Greece, known as the Chams, is being denied cultural rights. Admittedly, not a single Cham has yet complained to Athens or made any kind of case. Neither is there any evidence that an older Albanian element — the Arvanites — who settled in southern Greece and around Athens in the last century, now think of themselves as anything other than Greek. However, traces of a Slavic tongue can be found among some of the older people in the villages east of Athens.

Almost all Greeks are incensed by what they see as international support for the ex-Yugoslav republic of Macedonia. Such is their ire that the name is not even allowed to be mentioned in the Greek media. Macedonia is referred to as the "Republic of Skopje", after its capital city.

Greece's nationalist neurosis has also revealed itself in a new touchiness about the world's modern marketing symbol of Greece, the Parthenon. Last week the Coca-Cola company had to apologise to the Greek government after one of its advertisements in an Italian magazine featured the temple's venerable columns in the shape of Coca-Cola bottles.

Matters were not helped when the *Spectator* of London featured a Parthenon surrounded by barbed wire and machinegun towers on its cover. The story, on Greek fears of Balkan ethnic groups, was condemned by the Athens daily *Eleftherotypia* as "provocative and obscene".

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Bush begs the American people to give him a second chance



Roosevelt: dramatic flight to convention

CANDIDATES' acceptance speeches were once no more than the formal postscript to the proceedings of a convention. As late as 1960 John Kennedy invoked his famous vision of America's "New Frontier" on the Friday night outside the convention hall. Indeed, it was not until 1932, when Franklin Roosevelt made a dramatic flight from New York to Chicago, that candidates appeared at a convention at all.

But the primaries and television between them soon changed all that. Now that the roll call of the states has become simply an empty piece of ritual, it is success or failure of the nominee's acceptance speech that charges the convention with whatever air of excitement it still retains. The challenge was particu-

A speech without a memorable phrase may have served to turn the campaign back into a genuine contest, writes Anthony Howard in Houston

larly tough for President Bush on Thursday night. Here, after all, was no novice making his debut on the political stage. (Even the joke about the president reminding women of their first husband has now been recycled to suggest that he put both men and women in mind of their father-in-law.) Where Governor Bill Clinton at least had an aura of novelty surrounding him in New York five weeks ago, Mr Bush knew that he was bound to have associated with him a much more dangerous sense of familiarity.

At least on this occasion it did not breed contempt. The president's text demonstrated a coherent grasp of both argument and language, but he will never make an orator. There is a timbre to the voice that can still sound awkwardly like a whine, and he lacks the actor's equipment that got his predecessor out of many tight corners. But he can communicate a sense of decency and humanity, even humility, and it was that which he made the basis of his appeal to the American people to give him a second chance.

Presidents do not often apologise but, after his notorious "read my lips" pledge of 1988, Mr Bush realised that there was no escape from doing so. He had to admit error — "it was a bad call" was one characteristic phrase — if he was to retain any credibility on the tax issue. He did it in the end gracefully and well, even if his depiction of himself as having been conned by Congress in 1990 necessarily involved a risk of reviving all the old accusations about his being a wimp.

Yet the bravest decision of all was to make the economy — rather than family or cultural values, on which the Republicans have concentrated so much attention this week — the speech's dominant theme. The debate over how far the president should "bite the

bullet" (to borrow another of his phrases) on addressing economic issues apparently divided Republican strategists. But in reality there was little choice. To have done anything else would not only have been seen as a cop-out, it would have left the Republicans in danger of looking like a crackpot party.

As it was, the speech displayed some skill in at least projecting the debate forward. The president's proposal that taxpayers should in future be able to "check off" up to 10 per cent of their taxes into a special fund designed to bring down the national debt may have left most fiscal experts bewildered. But if it is unlikely to play in Wall Street, nobody should write off its chances in Peoria.

Like John Major with his Citizen's Charter, the presi-

dent clearly understands the importance that symbols can have in politics. Maybe the taxpayer, by putting his tick in a box, will turn out to have achieved absolutely nothing; but, if the scheme goes through, he will at least enjoy the feeling that he is doing his bit towards controlling government expenditure.

Otherwise, the president's various economic proposals were a little too reminiscent of a laundry list. There were something like 18 of them in all, which is more than a television viewer or even a newspaper reader can properly be expected to take in. One of the perils of being president may be that it becomes increasingly difficult to distinguish one sort of speech from another. There were moments on Thursday night when Mr

Bush sounded as if he thought he was delivering a State of the Union message to Congress. His address certainly did not rate as "the speech of a lifetime", as it had been billed, not least because there was barely a memorable phrase in it, nothing even to rival the promise in 1988 of "a kinder, gentler America".

In terms of turning the campaign back into a genuine contest it may, however, have served its purpose. Proud and feisty as he sounded at times, the president in effect threw himself on the mercy of the American people. The irony is that he is clearly banking on them being a good deal more "kind and gentle" than the Republican Party has revealed itself to be this past week.

Clifford Longley, page 10

Clinton-baiting delights convention

President resurrects pledge of tax cuts

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN HOUSTON

THE Republican army left Houston yesterday to wage a 10-week war against the Democrats armed with extreme social conservatism and relentless assaults on Bill Clinton's character, reinforced by a bold new presidential pledge of across-the-board tax cuts.

In a Thursday night speech that brought the party's convention to a thunderous climax and set the scene for a vicious autumn campaign, George Bush resurrected the Republican trump card of the past three elections by promising across-the-board tax reductions if re-elected. He urged Americans to "join me in a new crusade — to reap the rewards of our global victory".

Mr Bush pledged to offset tax cuts with spending reductions, but independent ana-

lysts said the required cuts would be so deep and so painful that this promise would be even harder to keep than his 1988 "no new taxes" pledge. The Clinton camp issued a statement saying it made his 1988 pledge look "truthful and responsible" and was "one of the most cynical plays ever attempted by any presidential candidate". It was a "blatant attempt to buy the election".

Mr Bush's speech accepting his party's nomination was billed as the most critical of his long career. But it was far from clear that he had provided either the compelling second-term agenda that American voters were demanding or a convincing prescription for their economic ills.

The hour-long address was punctuated by sneering jibes at Mr Clinton. Alluding to the Democrat's youthful experimentation with marijuana, Mr Bush said he would have been accused of "smoking something" had he predicted the extraordinary changes the world had experienced during his presidency. He derided Mr Clinton's ambivalence towards the Gulf war: "While I bit the bullet, he bit his nails."

Mr Bush said a Clinton administration would be "Carter II". He berated a "gridlock Democratic Congress" that had worked against him from the outset of his presidency. "Our policies haven't failed," he declared. "They haven't been tried."

At times defensive, at others boastful, Mr Bush claimed to have seized the "two defining opportunities... of an entire span of human history" by helping end communism and the threat of nuclear annihilation. He glossed over President Saddam Hussein's survival in power, claiming to have "locked a tyrant in the prison of his own country".

Aside from tax cuts, Mr Bush proposed a plan whereby taxpayers could earmark up to 10 per cent of their payments specifically for deficit reduction. Each dollar set aside for that purpose would be matched by an equal cut in government spending programmes. Experts said the cap alone would require cuts of \$293 billion (£151 billion) over five years from such popular programmes as Medicare and Medicaid, and the tax-earmarking proposal up to another \$51 billion annually.

Canadian reform deal shows signs of fraying

FROM JOHN BEST IN OTTAWA

IN WHAT is being hailed as an important step towards healing divisions between indigenous and other Canadians, the country's political leaders have unanimously agreed to recognise the inherent right of natives to self-government. Even as the agreement was being announced late on Thursday, however, an accord hammered out the day before on parliamentary reform started to show signs of fraying.

On Wednesday, Brian Mulroney, the prime minister, and the ten provincial pre-

miers concluded a deal that would transform Senate and Commons. Under it, Quebec would be guaranteed 25 per cent of Commons seats in perpetuity, even if the province's share of the national population falls. That would compensate for Quebec's heavy loss of seats in a restructuring of the Senate, where all provinces would have six seats.

The proposed guarantee to Quebec came under immediate attack in British Columbia, however, where Michael Harcourt, the province's premier, dissented from the package.

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Role models: Woody Allen on the set of his latest film *Husbands and Wives* with Mia Farrow, right, and the actress Judy Davis. Allen is now involved in an acrimonious battle with Farrow over custody of three of their children. She has accused him of child abuse

Real life upstages Woody Allen's cinematic art

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

Fans of actor-director Woody Allen have come to expect real life — theirs, often, but invariably his — to be reflected and parodied in his films.

Many of the small band of film critics who attended the first screening of Allen's forthcoming film, *Husbands and Wives*, earlier this week came determined to find echoes of the sordid battle over child custody being played out between Allen and Mia Farrow, his companion of the past 12 years. They did not have to search too hard.

In the film Allen plays a college professor, Gabe Roth, whose marriage (to Judy, played by Farrow) is disintegrating and who becomes romantically entangled with

a 20-year-old student — a situation that parallels the Farrow-Allen ménage, which has dissolved into mutual loathing amid accusations of betrayal, blackmail and child sex abuse.

Allen has acknowledged, indeed celebrated, the fact that he is having an affair with one of Farrow's 11 children, Soon-Yi Previn, 21. He has denied allegations that he sexually abused the couple's daughter, seven, and has suggested that Farrow is "unfit" as a mother.

Many lines from the film appear so appropriate to the Allen-Farrow saga that some New York newspapers have hardly bothered to distinguish between what the actors say on screen and the exchanges taking place in

reality. The audience at this week's preview were said to have sat amazed during one particularly apposite exchange in the film.

An off-screen interviewer asks the Roth-Allen character: "Have you been honest with your wife?" He replies: "What am I going to say? That I feel myself being infatuated with a 20-year-old?" Then his wife, Judy, (Farrow) chimes in: "Do you ever hide things from me? Feelings? Longings?"

Some viewers found the art-imitates-life comparisons almost too close for comfort. "You just feel like a Peeping Tom watching this movie," one film critic told *The New York Times*. Somewhat unrealistically, a spokesman for TriStar Pictures said: "Most

people will judge the movie objectively and not on the basis of the news." But the film company is reported to have abandoned plans for a media campaign for *Husbands and Wives*, fearing that the publicity surrounding the feud between Farrow and Allen might eclipse news of the film.

The film departs from reality in one crucial respect. In his own words Allen said this week that he had "been guilty of falling in love with Ms Farrow's adult daughter at the end of our own years together", but in the film he declines the affections of his student, played by Juliette Lewis. "If only you were older or I was younger," he tells her. *Hus-*

bands and Wives was completed in January, almost exactly coinciding, according to Farrow's lawyers, with her discovery of nude photographs of her adopted daughter in Allen's flat which led to the break-up.

The plot of the real-life drama has since moved rather more quickly than that of the film, which one critic described as "rather sluggish". In *Husbands and Wives* the Roth-Allen character is asked whether he is prone to self-destruction. "My heart does not know from logic," he says. That is a line he may be tempted to use when the child custody suit he has filed comes to court on Tuesday.

Diary, page 10

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AVIS Local

Talks delay UN air warning to Saddam

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

THE Gulf war allies are likely to tell Baghdad on Monday or Tuesday that Iraqi warplanes and helicopters will be shot down if they fly south of the 32nd parallel.

Bush administration officials said last night that the no-fly warning will come probably in the form of a letter to Iraq's ambassador at the United Nations. It will tell him that allied aircraft will patrol the air exclusion zone and monitor Iraqi ground actions against the Shia Muslims in the southern marshlands.

The presence of Jan Eliasson, the UN special envoy, in Baghdad this week has been a contributing factor to

the delay in the allies' issuing a formal warning to Baghdad. The allies have had to wait while Mr Eliasson has been talking to the Iraqis about allowing UN observers and international relief workers access to the southern marshlands. On Thursday Mr Eliasson, co-ordinator of UN relief operations, said he had made some progress about getting the Iraqis to sign a new memorandum of understanding on international relief operations, but there were "several problems". Yesterday a UN official in New York said Mr Eliasson's mission, which will continue into the weekend, is "not going great but is

not going terribly". The allies could be placed in an embarrassing position, if President Saddam Hussein does permit relief workers and accompanying UN guards into southern Iraq. If Mr Eliasson's mission fails, Washington will cite it as yet another example of Iraqi defiance of the UN.

The Bush administration has still not officially announced its role in the air exclusion plan. The White House has clearly been determined to try to distance the Republican convention from Iraq policy after the president was accused in a front-page report in *The New York Times* of planning to use a new tough

policy in the Gulf as an election ploy. London and Paris have been left to make the public running on the no-fly proposal.

In Tehran, an Iranian leader said his country opposed "satanic" American designs to establish a military presence in southern Iraq. Ayatollah Mohammed Yazdi, head of the judiciary, told worshippers at Friday prayers: "What does this aerial safety zone mean when the question whether it will be safe or not on the ground is still left open? Will ground safety be added??"

Iraqi opposition groups were pushing for the West to take measures that would prevent Saddam's ground forces attacking the Shia Muslims. One opposition leader even predicted that, far from helping the Shias, Western plans to establish an air exclusion zone would backfire as Saddam vented his fury on them. An air exclusion zone is aimed at helping to protect the marsh Arabs and the estimated 200,000 refugees and rebels hiding in the swamps because heavy armour cannot operate in the waterlogged terrain.

Lebanese Christians strike

Beirut: Lebanon's fragile two-year peace came under renewed threat yesterday after hundreds of thousands of Christians struck in protest at the first round of general elections planned for tomorrow (Richard Beeston writes).

In one of the most defiant actions yet by the Christian community against the Syrian regime of President Hrawi, shops, schools and businesses in the Christian heartland of east Beirut and Mount Lebanon closed at the start of a three-day strike.

President Hrawi responded to the challenge by sending hundreds of heavily armed troops into Christian areas in a show of force.

Thousands flee

Mamla: Heavy rain triggered rivers of steaming mud from Mount Pinatubo, the volcano in the northern Philippines, forcing nearly 250,000 people to flee the area and killing at least one person. (Reuters)

Head money

Jakarta: Indonesia has rewarded a farmer who gave food and a bed to a suspected rebel before beheading him as he slept. The farmer was awarded several times the local annual income. (Reuters)

150-160

السؤال الأول

Hope revives for Pretoria talks

Ramaphosa meeting breaks deadlock

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

THE first sign of a break in the constitutional logjam that has been bedeviling South African political life for the past two months came yesterday with the news, released by the African National Congress, that Cyril Ramaphosa, the ANC general secretary, was meeting Roelf Meyer, the constitutional development minister.

The location of the meeting and its agenda were not disclosed, but the ANC said that the two were holding discussions on removing obstacles towards the resumption of negotiations. "Discussions will focus on identification of steps to be taken to address the issues raised in earlier memoranda exchanged between the government and the ANC," the movement said.

The ANC laid down 14 separate demands which it insisted the government would have to meet before constitutional talks could be resumed. In reality, no one expects them to answer all the demands in full, but to take identifiable steps towards meeting them. In essence, the demands boil down to agreeing to take steps to end the violence and agreeing to the election of a constituent assembly with unfettered power to write a constitution.

After the Botswana killings, when the ANC broke off talks, it and the government conducted de facto negotiations in public through the exchange of interperpetually worded memoranda. Though they were harshly phrased on both sides, they did involve some genuine movement on the government side towards meeting the ANC's positions.

While the government waited for the mass action campaign to peak at the beginning of this month, the cabinet went off to a two-day retreat in a bush camp in northern Transvaal to consider how far to go in this movement. When they came back to Pretoria, nothing was disclosed publicly about what may be considered.

Even the ANC was kept in the dark. It attended a meeting two weeks ago with government negotiators, thinking it was going to be given the government terms, but was disappointed to be merely confronted with the government's proposals for a general amnesty. These had been drawn up in response to Cyrus Vance's suggestion that an immediate release of political prisoners would be a helpful step.

The ANC angrily declared the meeting fruitless and said that all further contact would have to be channelled through the general secretary's office. Yesterday's meeting is evidently the first example of that happening.

It seems unlikely that much will immediately be disclosed about the content of the meeting. President de Klerk at his international press conference in Pretoria on Thursday declared that he would not conduct his negotiations through the media any longer. Although officials were deliberately reticent about progress at the talks, a spokesman for Mr Meyer's ministry said last night that it was expected that this would not be a one-off meeting. "The delegations will now go back to their principals and report

back," he said. "Both parties are interested in getting back to the negotiating table and these are slow steps in that direction."

When negotiations officially restart, they may well look somewhat different from the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa) which went into virtual collapse in May. Delegations from both extremes of the political spectrum may well be present.

The government has been having official talks with the radicals of the Pan Africanist Congress, who declined to attend previous sessions. The Conservative Party on the right, which also refused to attend, has now split and the "new right" faction is widely expected to attend.

Three drowned: A pastor and two members of his congregation were drowned when they were washed away during a baptism in the Vaal river between Vanderlipark and Sasolburg, south of Johannesburg. (AP)



Golden touch: a Taipei trading firm employee displaying one of ten Chinese gold coins, worth about £72,000 and weighing 11lb, which were minted to mark the tenth anniversary of the smaller panda gold coins

Wealth of Seoul wins over China

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

THE riches of capitalist South Korea have at last proved irresistible to investment-hungry China. Peking seems set to establish diplomatic relations with its former enemy, Seoul, on Monday, relegating its old friend North Korea to almost total isolation.

The move is a victory for Seoul, which has pushed hard for this, and which announced the decision yesterday. Peking remained silent, appearing embarrassed at humiliating one of its last communist allies, Pyongyang.

Lee Sang Ock, the South Korean foreign minister, will leave for Peking tomorrow and is expected to sign normalisation documents with Qian Qichen, his Chinese counterpart, on Monday.

Peking, which maintains that Taiwan is a province of China under rebel nationalist rule, has insisted that Seoul must break its diplomatic links with Taipei. When Taiwan officials first reported on Thursday that Seoul had reached agreement with Peking, students in Taipei burnt South Korean flags.

Kenya clears path for Somalia airlift

FROM REUTERS IN NAIROBI

KENYA and the United States have patched up an embarrassing dispute that had delayed the start of an American airlift of food for starving Somalis.

A hurried meeting yesterday between President Moi and American officials opened the way for the first United States relief flight for refugees in northern Kenya, the initial phase of the 145,000-tonne American operation for Somalia. In a joint statement, they said the first airlift was taking place yesterday.

The White House announced the airlift a week ago as part of an international operation to save 1.5 million Somalis at risk of starvation. In a statement on television on Thursday, however, David Anderson, a Kenyan government spokesman, accused Washington of flouting Kenyan sovereignty by failing to seek permission to fly in military transport planes. "Instead of handing the food to relief agencies, the US Air Force plans to have its own personnel distribute the food," the statement said.

T.J. Dowling, an embassy official, called the accusations

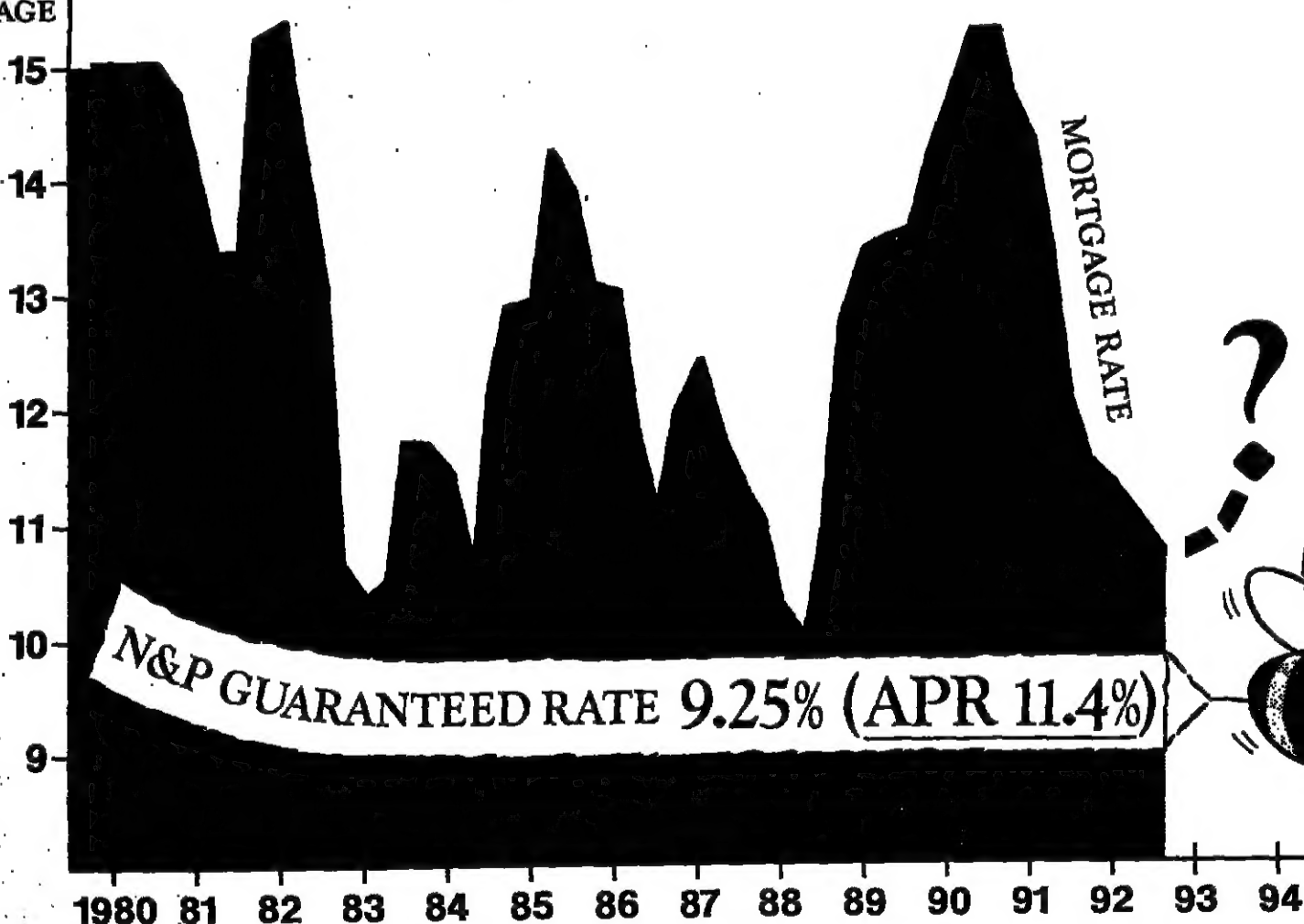
an "outright fabrication", adding: "We requested clearance all the way down the line." Permission to land the aircraft "had been granted for Mombasa and had been correctly requested for Wajir", the aid's destination.

Hundreds of Somali refugees rounded up by police in Nairobi last weekend were loaded under guard on to buses yesterday for transport to refugee centres. United Nations officials said. Kenyan officials said the refugees were arrested for failing to register with the authorities or for deserting refugee camps.

Sudan appeal: Church leaders in Sudan have appealed for urgent United Nations intervention to help 250,000 civilians trapped in the southern city of Juba, scene of fighting between government and rebel forces.

Bishop Nathaniel Garang, acting chairman of the New Sudan Council of Churches, said in a message released in Nairobi yesterday: "They [civilians] are being held hostage by the government troops. The airport is closed, so food and other essential items like medicines cannot reach them."

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THE TIMES

Clifford Longley

Playing politics with religion may backfire

If George Bush eventually needs a scapegoat for electoral defeat, what used to be called the American moral majority would make a prime candidate. Under the current euphemism of family values, a set of conservative moral and religious prejudices has gotten itself written into the Republican presidential platform. But playing politics with religion, in a country which prizes the formal separation of church and state enshrined in its constitution, is a risky ploy.

The headland of the family values appeal is in Protestant America. But it is a complex culture, also on the side of liberty. It dislikes overt state interference in moral or religious matters. Given a choice between godlessness and ending the separation of church and state, many God-fearing Americans would see the former as the lesser evil.

The most obvious respect in which the Republicans are playing politics with religion concerns abortion. Some Republicans have been eager to make an issue of this because they are deeply, others, in order to draw Roman Catholic support away from the Democrats (where it traditionally lies), which is a cynical strategy to wrong-foot Bill Clinton with some of his key ethnic constituencies such as the Irish, the Italians and the Hispanics.

The current appeal to fundamentalist religion is broader than over abortion alone: in fact Protestant fundamentalists have been slow to take up the abortion issue. In return for the endorsement of Pat Buchanan, his earlier rival for the nomination, Mr Bush has accepted into his party manifesto a package of pious platitudes which on the surface do little more than embroider the celebrated pair, motherhood and apple-pie, with religious overtones. But "strengthening family life", in a Republican policy speech, has nothing to do with better medical care for mothers and children on welfare. It is code for something else: the revival of a national ideology with strongly religious, even millennial, overtones.

America has a peculiar religious history. It is the pre-eminent religious nation of the West, with weekly church-going rates far higher than in western Europe and beliefs and values which would be familiar in an English Victorian schoolroom. America is commonly seen from Britain as embodying Britain's future, as if what happens there today is bound to happen here tomorrow. In fact America, in its core values and beliefs, is about a century behind secular Britain.

To close the gap of transatlantic incomprehension, the British need to recall bits of their own religious history that they have suppressed. William Blake's celebrated poem *Jerusalem*, which has become almost the unofficial national anthem, is one example of a very popular 17th and 18th century nationalist religious myth. This was the peculiar belief that the Anglo-Saxon race was descended from the lost tribe of Israel. In his capacity as Israel's Saviour, therefore, Christ must have visited England, hence Blake's words: "And did those feet, in ancient times..."

The legend that British-Israel was a chosen people under God's special protection and under Christ's special redemption may not have been believed as literally true by many, certainly not among the sophisticated. But it was exported as half truth to American New England, and took root in Puritan territory. There it quickly became wholly true in the minds of many and various Protestant sects of the late 18th and early 19th century.

The most famous surviving sect derived from that British-Israel mythology is the Jehovah's Witnesses; the most famous in America, the Mormons. But the Americanised British-Israelite myth, far from being forgotten like its British counterpart, was shorn of its more implausible historical assertions and went on to become virtually the official religious ideology of the United States. It inspired, among other things, the doctrine of white Anglo-Saxon America's "manifest destiny" to absorb and settle adjacent territories (and drive out their native inhabitants).

The phrase "God's own country", which seems to outsiders just a pious brag, is deeply resonant with this strange American-Israelite myth. It was votes in stirring that mystically patriotic pot. But the patriotic idealism of America is not only about god-given grandeur. It is also about creating a fair and generous society, a Promised Land. They may conjure up the former spirit, that of national glory; but in so doing the Republicans may find themselves being judged by the latter, the spirit of justice.

The audience for classical music is changing and the BBC must cater for it, argues Nicholas Kenyon

Why Radio 3 needs change

So Gerald Kaufman has said on this page (August 17) that he is going to eat Radio 3 for breakfast, rather than listen to it. I can appreciate that as a committed consumer of BBC Radio 3 in its present form he, like many readers, will feel defensive about my changes to its format. But I find it disturbing that someone in his position in public life should adopt such a stance of studied apathy towards a potential audience for the network. Culture is not just for those in the know.

Mr Kaufman's passing comment that "we should, of course, seek to please listeners some of the time" seems to me to understate the case. It's surely a responsibility — and a hugely enjoyable one, for those of us who love classical music — in using the BBC's licence fee, both to sustain our cultural life and to make the riches of Radio 3 available to as many people as can be found to enjoy them. We need to recog-

nise that the nature of the audience for classical music has changed, and that Radio 3 must change too without sacrificing quality or range in its output.

In the week following this year's hugely successful BBC Proms season, Radio 3 will present its full new schedule: an outstanding season of drama from Robert Lindsay and Dorothy Tutin in Yeats' version of Sophocles' *Oedipus* through to Michael Hastings' *Tom and Viv*. We will make our distinctive contribution to the Spanish celebrations with documentaries, features, plays, operas, and two special Queen Elizabeth Hall concerts juxtaposing medieval and renaissance music with modern masterpieces by Falla and Gerhard. This is scarcely "junk

radio" — there's enough beef in this mixture for even Mr Kaufman. There will be some more new formats, including our late-night live arts programme, *Night Waves*, and regular slots for chamber, vocal, early and contemporary music — so that listeners know where they are among the vast range of our output. There will be plenty of surprises even beyond Franz Berwald, from John Cage to David Mercer to Steven Martland.

Perhaps because we started three of our new programmes earlier this summer — precisely because we knew they would be the most difficult to get right, and to give time to respond to listener reaction and refine the formats — I accept we may have given a misleading impression

about the range of changes we are planning. I would be the last to suggest that everything is right; I have been noting every reaction, and over the next couple of weeks listeners will hear some changes here.

But we are moving in the right direction. The question, I suspect, comes down to one of balance, and here Mr Kaufman exaggerates wildly: the new formats that have irritated him account for nowhere near 40 per cent of our output. We are broadcasting about one-fifth of the listening week as a way-in for potential new listeners: not too much of a shock, I hope, to the habits of our fiercely loyal regular listeners.

Radio is about communication, and we will rely on listeners

to keep us constantly on our toes and ensure that communication is of the highest quality, because Radio 3 will always be judged by quality, not by listening figures. But that quality will not be of the same kind, or tone, or content, as that of the old Third Programme (which, remember, happened only in the evenings where its intensity could be sustained throughout the hours it broadcast). We need to accept that people listen in different ways at different times of the day, and with different needs. Some of them may even wish to be kept in touch with news and information, or to hear the central works of the classical repertoire.

Mr Kaufman's more personal remarks about my activities as a music critic and as a concert

planner are generous, but the contrast he tries to make with Radio 3 will not work: what little I have done in the musical world has come from an intense desire to communicate and, yet, to popularise: to make scholarly debate accessible through musical journalism, to make the best of new music or radical new interpretations of old music understandable and approachable.

That process I intend to continue unabated on Radio 3, with help from marketing campaigns, the new *BBC Music Magazine*, and most important, the quite exceptional resource of talent among our producers and broadcasters. Radio 3 will be genuinely a public service which the market place cannot provide, investing in the cultural life of the country. And it will continue to be at the heart of what the BBC attempts to do.

Nicholas Kenyon is controller, BBC Radio 3

The pull of the old school tie

Matthew d'Ancona looks at Britons' strange fascination with which school they went to

"Eton, Harrow, Winchester... and their cheap, er and more pernicious imitations should be razed to the ground and their foundations sown with salt," wrote Bernard Shaw in 1923. Doubtless his outburst struck a chord with contemporary radicals angry at the influence of the great public schools, but, seven decades on, his words have a hollow ring. The foundations of these monuments to intellect and privilege are secure: their aura is undimmed.

Why this should be so is a cultural puzzle addressed by *Old School Ties*, a study of the links between schooling and success to be published next week. Its authors, a public relations consultant and a schoolmaster at Rugby, have gathered together the memories of 1,600 public figures, arranged by profession, to discover what impact their schooldays had upon the evolution of their lives and careers. At last, the schooldays of Sam Fox and Sir Bernard Ingham will join those of Tom Brown in educational legend and trivia addicts will be able to check on Sir Leon Brittan's fellow alumni at Haberdashers' Aske's (they include Alan Whicker and Simon Schama).

As might be expected of such proud high-achievers, more than half claim that school made little difference to the professional paths they followed and most try to talk down the notion of the all-pervasive old school tie. "I have never liked a person because he's an Etonian, and I have not helped a person or been helped by a person because he's an Etonian," says Nigel Nicolson.

The book's inspiration was the ironic contrast between Douglas Hurd's campaign for the Tory leadership, which played down his Etonian origins, and John Major's, which milked his grammar school credentials and lack of university education. Earlier this year, Eric Anderson, Head Master of Eton, lamented to old boys that the tacit "understand-

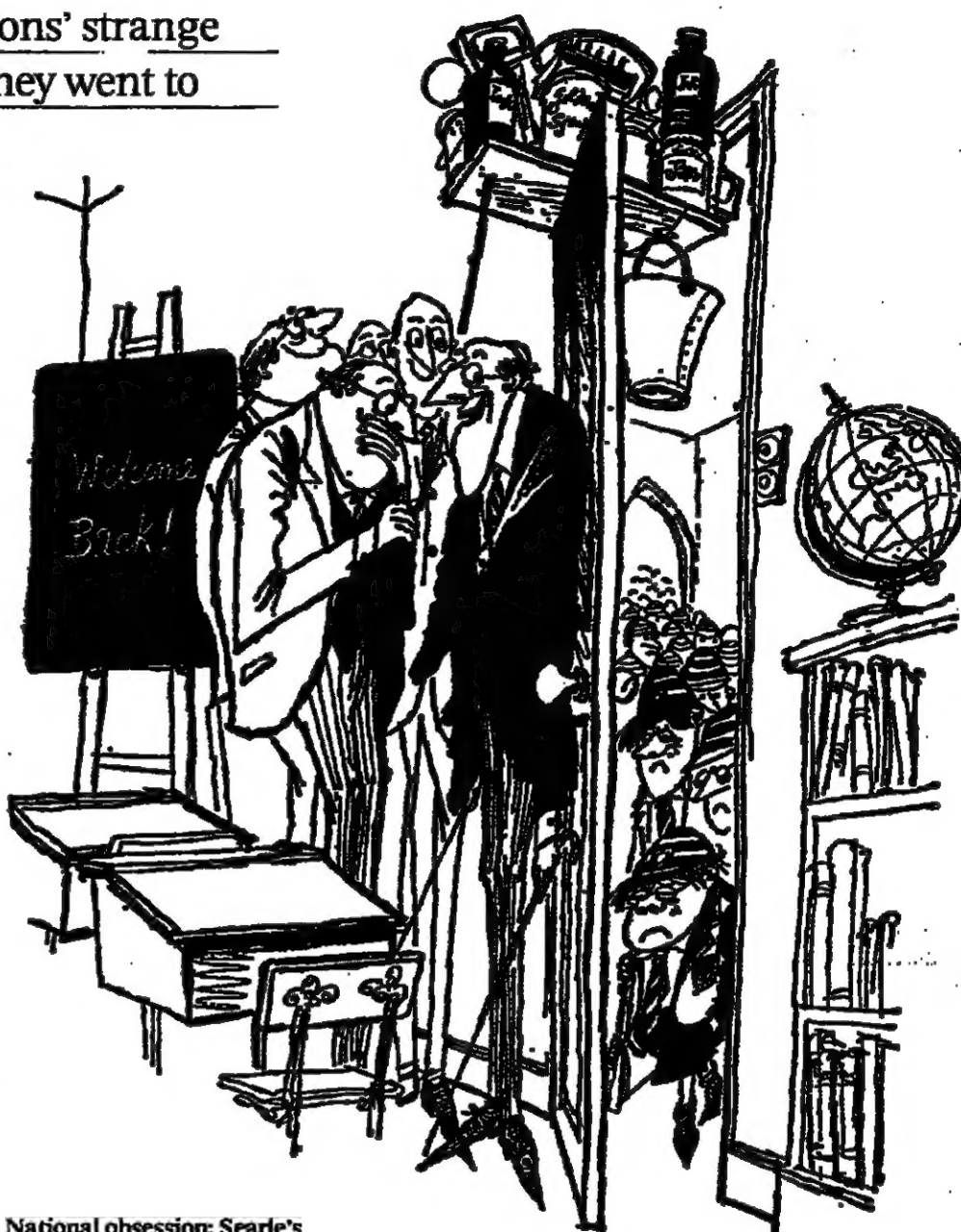
ings" between the school and Oxford and Cambridge colleges were withering away, a victory for the classless society, if not for parents shelling out £8,500 a year on their progeny. Evidently, values have changed since Stanley Baldwin promised he would have six Harrovians in his cabinet on the grounds that his predecessors had only had five.

Yet the change is largely cosmetic, a matter of acceptable political rhetoric rather than social reality. John Major is, after all, the only member of his cabinet who did not attend either a private school or an Oxford or Cambridge college, and more than half of the 63 new Tories who entered parliament this year under the banner of classlessness were educated at private school, bringing the total on the government benches to 201.

Of the 1,600 case studies in *Old School Ties*, chosen for their media prominence, 86 turn out to be Old Etonians. And just as Winchester (represented in the book by 52 old boys) used to be famous for churning out Labour politicians, different kinds of schools still seem to feed particular professions.

The harsh environment of English dormitories, for example, is clearly a fine nursery for civic virtue, though not for Machiavellian ambition: 63 per cent of respondents involved in public service went to boarding schools, compared to only 38 per cent of politicians. Less surprisingly, three quarters of the top military brass earned their academic spurs at private schools, compared to only a third of prominent actors and about a half of politicians. Such statistics do not prove that English society is dithered with nepotism; but they do suggest that the schoolboy is the father of the man, that time spent in the classroom is deeply formative.

For this reason, nostalgia — the true vice *anglaise* — plays an important part in the memories collected in the book, as today's great and good fondly confess a debt to a Mr Chips or a Miss



National obsession: Searle's view of St Custard's

Brodie who helped them see the academic light or clamber up the social ladder. A.L. Rowse, for example, attributes his scholarly success to the inspiration of the headmaster at St Austell Grammar School, without whom "I should not, as a working-class boy, have known about Oxford or scholarships to get there".

Yet one is equally struck by the sheer brutality recorded in these

true classroom confessions. Tam Dalyell remembers Nicholas Ridley's reputation at Eton as "a superb schoolboy painter" who was nonetheless "a bit rough with the cane", while Linda Kitson, the Falklands war artist, recalls "real sadism" among the female Flashmen of Torington Park near Arundel, now an open prison. Perhaps there is truth in the cliché that English school life

is a preparation for adversity and in Newbolt's poetic belief that "the voice of the schoolboy" would always rally the disheartened ranks.

For all its earnest sociology, *Old School Ties* is really a literary offering to a tribal obsession, since, more than any other race, the English are intrigued by their educational institutions.

No other culture has produced such a rich literature on the subject, ranging from Waugh's *Decline and Fall* to Geoffrey Willans' wonderfully illiterate tales of Nigel Molesworth, "the gorilla of 3B" at St Custard's who insisted that "GURLS are utterly wet and weed-struck". Only a talent nurtured in this country could have produced a vision as weird and marvellous as the film *If...*

Perhaps this is because the English have always invested so much expectation in their schooling, refusing to accept that education is simply about the transmission of knowledge. Ever since the aristocracy decided to educate its children away from home, and Sir Philip Sidney arrived at Shrewsbury, schools have devoted as much attention to social ideals as they have to the three Rs and the classics.

For centuries, public schools have offered a rugged training in manliness as preparation for high office or subscribed to Thomas Arnold's more refined belief in the young Christian gentleman. The state system, in contrast, has veered from a faith in social mobility through selection at 11, to a programme for social unity through comprehensive education.

Thus, schools have always held a mirror up to the nation's soul, from the libertarian risings of the late 18th Century fought by pupils under the banner of the tricolour, to the ethnic tensions of today's inner city playground. Straightforward curriculum matters — the decline of Shakespeare or A-level results — may be jolly important; but it is the drama of schools which inspire genuine fascination.

The race row at Stratford, the anarchic regime at Summerhill and the resignation of the head mistress of St Paul's, all are little parables of English life, runes which are read for encrypted social messages. This is why Shaw missed the point when he called for the abolition of the great public schools. For the true old school tie is the one that binds youthful memory to future imagination.

Old School Ties, by Tim Devlin and Hywell Williams, Sinclair-Stevenson, £17.99



...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

Date rape is the crime of the year, with a sequence of sensational trials in the States, and a poll organised by the Cambridge University students' union suggesting that one in five female students at British universities has been the victim of rape or attempted rape. Even allowing for the gross inaccuracy of polls, the figures are horrendous.

Date rape means sexual intercourse forced by a person with whom the victim has a social engagement. It was first recorded in the University of Georgia *Red and Black* in May 1983: "But, according to some local rape counsellors, 'date rape' may be a hidden problem that goes on with little notice but leaves frustrated, silent victims." The phrase has a trendy brevity and half rhyme that make it irresistible to the media. But it begs a lot of questions. Date and rape are two volatile value words. One woman's rape is another man's seduction is another man's jolly Friday night out, alas. There are many cases of rape that are evil assault and battery. There are cases that are more ambiguous, as we have been seeing in the courts.

Date rape was less common before the invention of the motor car, and before the institution of unchaperoned dating. Seduction is another story. But the matter of sex is notoriously subjective, and inaccessible to lawyers. Novelists and poets are better at the mystery. Judge James Horon, in a memorandum granting a new trial in the Scotsboro case on

June 22, 1933, wrote: "History, sacred and profane, and the common experience of mankind teach that women of the character shown in this case are prone to make false accusations both of rape and of insult upon the slightest provocation or without even provocation, for ulterior purposes." That was a male chauvinist statement of its period. But Potiphar's wife suggests that not all acts of rape are the whole story. Rape is brutal battery. Sometimes it takes two to tangle.

In its root the word means to take by force. It comes from the Latin *rapere* to seize and carry off, and hence to ravish. The most famous instance in Roman history was the rape of the Sabine women, when the Roman youths grabbed the neighbours' women at a festival, because they had been barred from intermarriage. Romulus told the women that their rape had been caused by the pride of their parents, when they had refused the Romans the right to intermarry. This tendentious argument seems to have worked, at any rate in the account by the old-fashioned (male) historian. "His arguments were supported by the blandishments of the men, who excused the rape on the grounds of overpowering passion and love, which are the most moving of pleas to a woman's heart."

This was a rape that turned out well, from a male point of view, if you reckon that the foundation of Rome was a good thing. The Carthaginians and many others would have dissented.

The other momentous Roman

rape was that of Lucretia by Sextus, the son of Tarquinius Superbus. She told her husband, and then took her own life. The incident led to a popular uprising, and the expulsion of the Tarquins from Rome, and so to the establishment of the republic. The poet laureate published a book this year arguing that the erotic key to Shakespeare hangs on his *Rape of Lucretia*.

According to Plutarch, Solon's legislation at Athens punished rape more leniently than seduction or adultery. An adulterer caught in *flagrantia* was to be killed. A man who committed rape on a free woman was merely to be fined 100 drachmas. Rape was a temporary act of violence while seduction subverted a woman's loyalty, and struck at the family.

Demetrius gives topical advice on date rape to Helena in *Midsummer Night's Dream*: "You do impeach your modesty too much."

To leave the city and commit yourself into the hands of one that loves you not;

To trust the opportunity of night,

And the ill counsel of a desert place,

With the rich worth of your virginity.

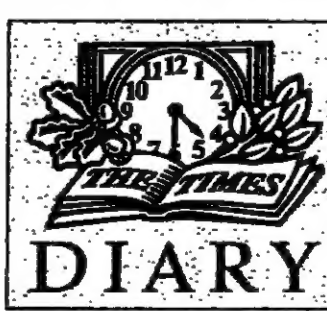
There never has been a definitive solution to the perils of date rape. The sexual signals between men and women constantly need updating. In the meantime, be careful whom you go out with, and carry a big stick or a hat-pin.

Silence of the readers

HAVING taken up his post as the new director of the Press Complaints Commission only last week, Mark Bolland was anticipating something of a baptism by fire. With the Queen making clear her displeasure at the publication of the photographs of the Duchess of York with John Bryan, the commission had braced itself for one of the biggest rows in its short history.

Bolland, eager to be seen to cope with his first crisis, ordered staff to arrive at their desks in Salisbury Square, off Fleet Street, in central London, at the crack of dawn while the rest of the country was still waking up to digest the pictures over their breakfast tables. The new boss briefed his 14-strong staff on how to handle the anticipated deluge of calls and faxes from members of the public appalled at the hounding of the Duchess of York. Lord McGregor of Durris, the commission chairman, joined the dawn start once he had fought his way through the army of television cameras camped outside his house in a quiet Hampstead street.

Somewhat the storm never materialised. As Bolland and his team of 14 sat facing the battery of telephones in their plush offices, they waited — and waited and waited. "The phones just did not ring. The silence was remarkable," says Bolland, who has enjoyed a meteoric rise at the commission. He was brought in last year as executive assistant to McGregor, became assistant director and then deputy before taking over the top slot last week. Bolland says: "In the whole of Thursday we had only one complaint. When the story broke about the marriage of the Princess of Wales we had 400 telephone



calls and 80 letters." Bolland joined the commission from the Advertising Standards Authority.

Born in Canada but brought up in Middlebrough, Bolland, who is a devotee of Dr Who, does not have the newspapers delivered at home but buys them from the same vendor every day. "He knows something is up when I buy a copy of every single newspaper," But Bolland did not have to spell out his order for the *Mirror*. "The vendor had a pile of them waiting for me when I arrived." Not, in the event, that they were needed. The commission has spent most of the past two days dealing with complaints such as the one from an evangelist minister who has accused the press of trying to silence the claims of Jesus Christ to be the only true saviour.

One piece of financial advice John Bryan has surely not given the *Yorks* is to pay back the money from the Civil List. Yet it is not unprecedented. In 1931 King George V decided voluntarily, because of the deepening recession, to forego the £50,000 due. In a letter to Ramsay MacDonald, the prime minister, Sir Frederick Ponsonby, Keeper of the Privy Purse, wrote: "The King has arrived at the conclusion that by the exercise of the most rigid economy it should be possible to reduce the

Civil List by £50,000. The Queen and other members of the Royal Family, who are in receipt of parliamentary grants, are desirous that reductions of these grants should be made during this time of national crisis."

Smoke storm

THE prospect of Sir Walter Raleigh, that paragon of Elizabethan gallantry, being stripped of his knighthood for introducing the evil weed to the British Isles, has produced a spirited defence in Raleigh's Devon birthplace.

Anti-smoking campaigners have been collecting signatures for a pe-



tion to be submitted to the Queen demanding the old sea-dog be retrospectively reduced to plain Walt. Now villagers in East Budleigh, where the local pub is named after him, have mounted their own petition to be presented to Buckingham Palace next month. Eddie Truman, the local landlord, says: "We already have more than 1,000 signatures which shows the depth of local feeling on this. Sir Walter has suffered enough — he lost his head, we don't see why he should lose his title as well."

Talking heads

NEWS of what is already being described as the "alternative Tory party conference" will surely dismay John Major and party managers who had hoped to keep the lid on the contentious European debate in Brighton next month. Unperturbed by the manoeuvrings to keep the highly critical Maastricht motions off the conference agenda, anti-federalists have decided to hold their own conference at which the contentious issues will be debated. Organised by the reinvigorated Bruges Group (honorary president Baroness Thatcher), speakers will include Tory MPs and such luminaries as Sir Alan Walters and Professor Patrick Minford. The Reform club has been hired for the event on the Thursday before the party faithful gather in Brighton and the constituencies which submitted the critical motions will be able to attend. Patrick Robertson, secretary of the group whose fortunes have been revived since Maastricht, says: "Of course the timing is deliberate. Real debate on Europe will be stifled at the Tory party conference. We are providing an alternative forum."

Israeli police were summoned to the scene of a grisly murder near Tel Aviv this week when a skeleton with a knife in its chest was unearthed. The area was cordoned off, experts summoned and heads were seen to shake gravely. The ferocity of the crime shocked even the most hard-bitten detectives. Yet within hours the case was closed. "The officers on the scene reached the conclusion that finding suspects was unlikely," said an Israeli police spokesman. A cover-up the highest level? Mossad involvement? Not at all. The victim had been murdered during the Middle Bronze Age, some 3,700 years ago.

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CLEANING UP BRAZIL

The rebirth of democracy in Latin America over the past decade has been one of the brightest and least recognised triumphs of human rights. As the continent's leading power, Brazil should be in the forefront of this new Latin order. For that it needs a government and president that exemplify clean politics. Yet its development has been crippled by instability and economic mismanagement. In the past 40 years, it has suffered 21 years of authoritarian military rule. Its stuttering democracy has been marked by corruption, social malaise, the self-serving manoeuvrings of an isolated ruling clique. In all that time only one elected president has been able to complete his term.

The likely impeachment proceedings next week against President Collor will be a severe test of the country's new constitutional structure. It will continue an unhappy history of democratic failure that can only destroy people's confidence in the ability of their government to tackle the country's huge problems. The charges against Mr Collor are that he enriched himself and his family with several million dollars from funds deposited in his account by Paulo Cesar Farias, his 1989 campaign manager.

The president has vigorously denied wrongdoing but his credibility is now stretched so thin that most of his cabinet, including the foreign minister, are reported to be on the point of resignation. The president does not command a majority in the legislature. Although he has enough support to survive an impeachment vote, which requires the votes of two thirds of the chamber of deputies and senate, he could not govern after that. The opposition would not give him even tacit support.

Impeachment proceedings would be a traumatic baring of the soul even for an older and healthier democracy. They would paralyse the government of Brazil at a time when confident and decisive leadership is needed to deal with an economy in its 29th month of recession, an inflation rate of 23 per cent a month, unemployment at 16 per cent and

complex debt renegotiation at hand. Most leading newspapers and politicians are now urging the president to step down. There is little enthusiasm for Itamar Franco, the vice-president, who suffers from a similar image to that of Dan Quayle. But if the key figure in the government, Marcello Marques Moreira, the economics minister, can be persuaded to stay on, a relatively smooth transition could be effected.

Mr Collor shows no inclination to quit. A strong-willed and hot-tempered man, he has insisted he will serve out his term until 1995. His recent attempt to rally the population behind him by urging them to don the national colours and come out on the streets went disastrously wrong. Instead the crowds went black and demanded his resignation. So far, however, the military has stood behind him.

Brazil's tragedy is that President Collor was its most promising leader for years. He is 43, well-educated and vigorous, and he has a capacity to take on such big challenges as his successful handling of the Rio world environmental conference this year. But the glow from that meeting has faded. Now there is growing disillusion with the bickering in Brasilia. So far the military have shown no stomach to meddle again in politics, and there is no imminent danger of a coup. That might change if the president remained in office, limping through his term without the political support to effect any change or the credibility to rally ordinary Brazilians.

Until publication of the congressional report on the impeachment, the extent of any alleged involvement in corruption cannot be gauged. It is said, as it was of Nixon, that there is "no smoking gun." Mr Collor's supporters object to what they see as a political lynching. But if the charges are proved, the scale of wrongdoing makes continuation in office impossible, even in a country where backhand deals are a normal fact of life. Mr Collor has already lost the confidence of his country. He would serve Brazil best by standing down now.

SUICIDAL PARADOX

At the heart of yesterday's Home Office report on prison suicide is a paradox. Society wears two faces towards the criminal, the harsh and the humane, faces worn by the police and public, by the judiciary, and above all by the staff of the prison service. The report is the humane face of officialdom towards prison suicide. But it is society wearing its other face which provides the prisons and fills them.

Prisons exist to impose a measured amount of mental suffering and discipline, which the prisoner deserves by his conduct. Yet, as the report outlines, considerable effort has been spent to make prisons more bearable. Unconsciously compensating for this gradual relaxation, courts have gradually increased their average sentences in order to restore the dose of punishment to what it was before.

Prison suicide well illustrates the paradox. The prisoner is not supposed to be having a pleasant time. The average prisoner can cope with that, but there will be a minority of prisoners for whom the experience is not just bad but intolerable. Some will end an ordeal they cannot bear by killing themselves.

Then the other face appears, concerned and humane. Prison conditions must be looked at, prison care improved. Each suicide case is analysed by a coroner in public and by an internal prison service enquiry in private. Reports are written, guidelines promulgated, new procedures created. Yesterday's report is awash with compassion and not from sentiment or hypocrisy. It was compiled from all parts of the prison service, showing that the desire to stop suicide in prison is sincere and general.

The report puts a high value on attending to a prisoner's welfare, as if any unhappiness had to be eliminated as a side-effect of some other penal purpose, always unstated. Yet from the lips of the police doing the arresting, the judge doing the sentencing, and the public watching from the side, the phrase ringing in the prisoner's head as he

descends to the cells is "Good riddance and serve him right".

Thus official two-mindedness is not just over sentencing. What most annoys an inner-city policeman is having to catch and arrest again some young offender he thought he put away two nights ago, but whom the courts promptly let out on bail. What disturbs the sleep of a juvenile magistrate, one of those who release such culprits on bail, is the thought of the high suicide rate among young offenders remanded in custody.

It is rising. The bullying, humiliation and loneliness which usually precede a suicide in custody, and the often inhumane conditions in overcrowded and inefficiently staffed remand centres, make this hardly surprising. In 1987, in response to public alarm, Home Office policy on suicide was tightened up. Every institution now has a suicide prevention management group. All such groups include a member of the Samaritans from outside the prison. Some even have a prisoner in the group.

But that year also recorded a quantum leap in the rate of prison suicide, for reasons unclear. Home Office policy is no longer to regard suicide as primarily a medical problem. Though most suicides are "depressed", the depression is now seen not as mental illness but as a normal reaction to an unpleasant situation. It is no longer left only to doctors to treat. What prisoners need above all is somebody to talk to, who seems to care. Each prisoner is to be allotted one particular prison officer, with whom he can build a personal relationship. Samaritan work in prisons is expanding fast, with warm Home Office encouragement.

Half the criminal-justice and penal system is trying to make sure prison hurts, to mark society's abhorrence of the crime and its sympathy for the victim. The other half is trying to stop it hurting, so prisoners are no longer tempted to kill themselves. As long as society demands both aims at once, it cannot blame the system for failing to satisfy it on either.

CRIME BUILT IN

A third of a century after Jane Jacobs first defined the concept of "defensible space", architects appear to remain unconvinced that their work has any link with crime. Contrasting evidence this week from Lancashire and Sussex shows how disastrous has been this neglect. In Wigan, vandalised and crime-ridden estates are having to be policed by private security firms, such is the fear of crime induced by modern housing designs. In Sussex, on the other hand, a police-sponsored "secured by design" initiative has proved a success, with no burglaries reported from the estates concerned. In some cases no more than £300 was required to make ordinary houses safe from burglary.

Ms Jacobs's thesis was that every aspect of urban design was part and parcel of the informal policing of cities. Traditional streets offered gradations of privacy, from public street to pavement to front garden to steps and doorways to front windows. This meant that city inhabitants could exercise subtle but constant supervision over their environs. Both in moving about their property and in running errands and visiting friends, they acted as unofficial "bobbies on the beat". They needed no neighbourhood watch scheme as the neighbourhood was automatically monitored by virtue of its layout.

But these were traditional grid-block streets. The high rises and deck-access blocks of the 1960s and 1970s defy such policing. Almost instantly, they became abused and crime-ridden. Today they are the most lasting and costly of disasters of postwar planning, a blot on the reputation of the

architectural profession which its lack of remorse leaves uncleaned. Recent crime research suggests that, however much money is poured into double locks and secure foyers and private guards, such estates are inherently friendly to the criminal. Their spaces are "undefensible". They must one day be demolished and replaced by less hostile layouts based on the traditional street. Private space must be respected, yet used to overlook public space.

Recent experience in Liverpool has shown that three-storey deck-access blocks surrounded by wasteland can be cheaply converted to single terraced houses with small gardens. This has proved popular with residents and appears to deter crime. Many of these designs have been the result of residents' demanding to have their say against the planning and architectural professionals, the latter long used to having things their own way. The outcome may not be to the taste of the architects — a plethora of vernacular and Tudorbethan designs — but professions that lose the confidence of the public must live with the consequences.

Property crime is not a constant in any community — it is a function of a variety of social and economic factors. But it is also a function of the ease with which burglary can be perpetrated and of the assurance of escape. Both are plainly related to the design of houses and the planning of neighbourhoods. The tragedy is that, 30 years after Jane Jacobs wrote her defiance of modern architecture, this message should have still to be repeated.

Timetable for the bomb enquiries

From Sir John May

Sir, May I seek to clear up misunderstandings which have arisen about my intentions for the future conduct of the Maguire and the Guildford and Woolwich enquiries (Letters, August 6, 8, 18).

The report of a small independent scientific committee on various points which arose during the public hearings on the Maguire case last September and October has reached me today. I shall hold public hearings from September 14, with the intention of delivering a final report to ministers in October.

In the case of the Guildford and Woolwich enquiry, I cannot hold public hearings nor publish a report of my findings until after the prosecution of the three Surrey police officers. Nevertheless, it is clearly desirable that I should let my colleagues on the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice know the benefit of any general views I may form before it reports in June 1993.

I therefore intend to write an account of the Guildford and Woolwich cases from the extensive documentary material which is already in my possession. This will deal with all aspects of these cases, including, for instance, the conduct of any senior police officers. I shall invite both written and oral observations from any person who I think can help me.

I hope to produce a draft report for my colleagues on the royal commission in the early part of 1993. This draft will not be for publication, although I intend to send a copy to ministers for information. When I have completed my full report on the Guildford and Woolwich cases, I shall submit this formally to ministers and I expect it to be published.

That I have ultimately had to adopt this course of action is due largely to the delay that has occurred in the prosecution of the Surrey police officers.

Yours sincerely,
J. D. MAY,
Whittington House,
19 Alfred Place, WC1.
August 21.

ITN in Bosnia

From the Chief Executive of ITN

Sir, Three of our staff have been wounded covering the conflict in the former Yugoslavia and recently a colleague from ABC was killed. This has been the most dangerous war for many years for the journalists and television crews reporting it. It takes courage and dedication to bring out the truth of what is happening, whether in Sarajevo or in the Serb detention camps.

It was therefore unhelpful for The Times to publish a cartoon today depicting an ITN cameraman dressed in combat gear, carrying ammunition and toting his camera as a gun, with an associated comment that all reporters are anti-Serb. It is this galley of a currency in the world of ITN that we only serve to increase the risk to our staff.

ITN relies on its reputation for objectivity and impartiality in all such situations, and we have reported from all sides of the battle-lines in what was Yugoslavia. ITN's reports have won respect around the world. In that context, I am sure your readers would have seen Peter Millar's article as at best untimely.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT PHILLIS,
Chief Executive,
Independent Television News Ltd,
200 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.
August 21.

Cost of shooting grouse

From the Secretary of the British Field Sports Society, Scotland

Sir, Ronald Faux ("Grouse await twelfth as clay substitutes draw pre-season fire", report, August 10) states that while grouse shooting may be less expensive per brace this year "other costs ensure that a day on the moors remains a preserve of the well-heeled enthusiasts". He quotes figures given by Holland and Holland which are very misleading.

An excellent day's grouse shooting can cost less than £40 a brace. Shooting is, unfortunately, often more expensive in Scotland than in England because of the extra burden of rates on sporting land north of the border.

A new Aysa Spanish bodock shotgun can be purchased for around £700 and new English shotguns can be had for well under £10,000. Good second-hand English shotguns are less than £1,000. Gun security cabinets start at around £60-VAT, cartridges £90 per 100. A tweed shooting suit, if such a thing is necessary, can be acquired for far less than £495 and as for outer jackets being £200, wax jackets can be found for as little as £20 and excellent quality ones for £40-£60.

Membership of the British Field Sports Society will give the sportsman or woman £2m third-party and £25,000 permanent disability insurance for £20 a year, a fifth of the quoted figure, and that will cover all field sports activities.

Grouse shooting is not just the "preserve of the well-heeled". Yours faithfully,
JAMIE HEPBURN-WRIGHT,
Secretary, British Field Sports Society, Scotland,
Green Burns, Coupar Angus,
Blairgowrie, Perthshire,
August 18.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Sympathetic treatment for drug and drink addiction

From Professor Emeritus Ivor H. Mills

Sir, One can only congratulate and be grateful for the Princess of Wales and her approach to the problems of people caught up in the use and abuse of drugs (report, August 18). There is no doubt that one gains insight by talking to the people involved and one quickly comes to realise that many of them have excellent qualities but have become trapped by the mechanisms at work in the brain.

Our studies began in the 1960s when I was slow to realise that five pupils from local schools who presented in quick succession to my consultations with jaundice could be using injectable drugs and shared needles. At that time (1965) the Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire told me they had no separate record of drug addicts or drug-related crimes. I was amazed to learn from the boys that in each case main line heroin was their first adventure into drug use. By intense and long-term counselling and the use of anti-depressants they were persuaded to stop the intermittent use of heroin. However, whenever a major problem arose they always went straight to heroin.

The same applied to the doctor's son who was a true addict and after being helped to stay off heroin for a year went back to it when his girl friend eventually refused to marry him. Unfortunately he forgot he would have lost his tolerance after a year and took too large a dose.

Most of the alcoholics we have studied were perfectionists driving

themselves to the limit at work — far from the weak and useless creatures they are often painted as being. They found by chance that alcohol relieved tension and enabled them to work even harder.

In the same way, bulimic anorexics find that alcohol prevents the compulsive drive to binge on carbohydrates. In both groups the amount of alcohol needed may escalate until alcoholism supervenes. The same has been described by a number of first-class actors and actresses.

Cocaine gets people hooked in a different way, by acting directly on the reward centre of the brain. Even the first dose makes them crave to have it again.

It is becoming clear that drug taking is associated with three mechanisms in the brain. One is the mechanism of morphine addiction, which can be reproduced by endorphin (the brain's "morphine") which is released during binging. The second is compulsive behaviour which drives the person relentlessly even without addiction. The third is stimulation of the reward centre of the brain.

The first we believe we understand a lot about. The second we are beginning to have some insight into and have some success with drug therapy. The third, which may overlap one of the other two, is perhaps the most difficult to understand and does not yet look to have an easy, effective treatment.

As the princess said, we still need more research — and, in the meantime, more understanding of the

people trapped by the brain mechanisms.

Yours faithfully,
IVOR H. MILLS,
Douglas House,
Addenbrooke's Hospital,
Trumpington Road, Cambridge.

From Canon Nicholas Frayling,
Rector of Liverpool

Sir, The speech of the Princess of Wales could not be more timely. Increasing concern about hard drugs is masking the extent of alcohol abuse, especially among young people.

In a recent informal survey of prisoners in police cells in Liverpool, I discovered that most had been drinking heavily just before their arrest — in one case 17 pints of lager. In no case was drink mentioned in court, nor did it figure in the charges. The statistics are, therefore, misleading — they are, so to speak, "dried-out" in the judicial process.

The conversion of public houses — and not only in cities — into what are, in effect, drinking clubs for young people, is partly to blame, but the underlying reasons are more complex. Macho behaviour and frequent drunkenness, with attendant anti-social behaviour and sickening violence, are no longer confined to inner cities and outer-lying estates — they know no social boundaries.

Young people do not feel valued, and appear to have little hope for the future. We ignore them at our peril.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS FRAYLING,
Liverpool Parish Church,
Old Churchyard, Liverpool 2.

What juries should know of a defendant's convictions

From Mr K. W. Lidstone

Sir, Mr Adam Clapham (letter, August 17), drawing on his own experience of jury service, supports the view that the jury cannot be trusted to deal with evidence as to previous bad character without the kind of expert guidance that is available to their continental counterparts, where judges retire with the lay jury.

As Mr J. R. Spencer points out ("Juries right to know", August 13), previous convictions are exceptionally admissible in evidence in order to prove the guilt of the accused on the offence(s) charged where these convictions are so relevant that they outweigh the prejudicial effect of admitting them as evidence.

The trial judge in the Berkowitz case would appear to have ignored the recent decision of the House of Lords in DPP v. P (1991) which sought to clarify the law in this area. There is, for example, no doubt that if a man accused of sexually abusing young boys after picking them up and seducing them in similar circumstances had 200 convictions for sexually abusing young boys using a similar technique, those convictions would be put before the jury.

However, the trial judge would have been aware that Mr Berkowitz faced alternative charges (burglary or handling) and that if he was not guilty of the one he was almost certainly guilty of the other. There were also political overtones.

In these circumstances to allow the 244 previous convictions to go before the jury may have been seen as unfair, even if right in law, as well as presenting the defendant with a ground of appeal. As it is, justice would appear to have been done

without the use of the evidential sledgehammer.

Yours sincerely,
K. W. LIDSTONE,
University of Sheffield,
Faculty of Law, PO Box 598,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

From Mr Philip C. Dimond

Sir, May I counsel potential jurors against memorising Sergeant Killen's comment (letter, August 14) that "unless the defendant's lawyer tells the jury that the defendant is of previous good character, he jolly well is not". As they will discover, the oath requires them to give a verdict according to the evidence. Perhaps it would have been wiser for Sergeant Killen to emphasise that unless jurors hear in evidence that the defendant is of bad character, then they should assume he is of good character.

Yours faithfully,
P. C. DIMOND,
Holly Farm East, Holly Farm Road,
Otham, Maidstone, Kent.
August 14.

From his Honour Peter Mason, QC

Sir, Sergeant Killen is right when he says that jurors who know the score will, if nothing is said by defence counsel, conclude that the defendant has previous convictions. In the privacy of the jury room they will no doubt tell their colleagues so. This will inevitably lead to speculation and debate as to what the convictions were, how many and when.

To avoid this, why not allow the jury routinely to hear evidence of a defendant's criminal record in every case? In my experience, in the rare

cases where this is currently done it frequently (and paradoxically) re-opens to the defendant's advantage.

Yours faithfully,
PETER MASON,
11 King's Bench Walk,
Temple, EC4.

From Mr Donovan R. de Lacey

Sir, There is a predisposition on the part of certain police officers to be satisfied that once they have decided that the accused is guilty that is the end of it. Certain magistrates' clerks, and indeed some magistrates and judges also seem to suffer from a similar syndrome. This is not criticism of the system as such but merely an observation which I have developed over 40 years of practice as a solicitor.

Yours faithfully,
DONOVAN R. de LACEY,
126a Crayford Road,
Crayford,
Kent.

From Mr Gershon Ellenbogen

Sir, It would seem that in the case of the "illiterate forger", described in Sir Michael Kerr's letter of August 15, an application by the prosecution for leave to adduce previous convictions on "similar facts" would have been particularly appropriate and could hardly have been rejected.

It was my experience as prosecuting counsel (and I admit my own omissions in this regard) that such applications are not made as often as they should be.

I am, etc.
GERSHON ELLENBOGEN,
9 Montagu Square, W1.

Fleischmann altar

From Lady Catherine Bowes

Sir, The two photographs which you published on August 14, comparing Arthur Fleischmann's perspective altar (temporarily housed in Westminster Cathedral) with Henry Moore's stone one in St Stephen Walbrook remind us that even the greatest of artists are occasionally rejected by the Establishment.

Fleischmann was an innovative Hungarian sculptor who chose a modern material when he moved from realism to his concept of modern art.

Your black and white photograph of his altar, lectern and candelabra cannot do justice to the planes of subtly coloured perspex from which they are constructed, nor to the light which forms an integral part of the work. It would be a shame if they were not to be found a place — perhaps in a simple modern setting?

Yours faithfully,
CATHERINE BOWES,
Flat D, 14 Sloane Court East, SW3.

Evasive action

From Mr Christopher Wigley

Sir, I feel that you have let us down by publishing your table giving details of "ministers' holiday retreats" so late in the year (illustration, August 19).

Even though this year late holiday bookings have been a significant feature, the main booking period was months ago. How can the public avoid the possibility of meeting a British politician in holiday mood when your exposé is published well into the parliamentary recess?

I remain, yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER WIGLEY,
Rushall, 22 Burford Crescent,
Wilmshurst, Cheshire.

Weekend Money letters, page 20

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

150

negatives show

OBITUARIES

DAVID PATON

Canon David Paton, ecumenist and missionary, died on July 18 aged 78. He was born on September 9, 1913.

DAVID Macdonald Paton inherited from his father a passion for Christian unity and mission; the two always went together in his mind. But his life coincided with a period when the coherence and confidence of the missionary and ecumenical movement's pioneering days — with dreams of One World and One Church — ran up against the emotional strength of nationalism and denominationalism. He bore the pain.

He was the son of Dr William Paton, an English Presbyterian minister and missionary, who was the col-



league of Temple, Bell and Oldham in the great British contribution to what became the World Council of Churches.

David Paton was educated at Repton and always had a surprisingly good relationship with Geoffrey Fisher, his headmaster and later his archbishop.

After Oxford he worked for the Student Christian Movement in Birmingham and, following his ordination, went to China as a missionary in 1940. He had hoped for a life like his father's; instead he experienced the war and then

the expulsion of all missionaries by the communists.

Returning to England, he served as Vicar of Yardley Wood, Birmingham, and published *Christian Missions and the Judgment of God* (1953). He had become convinced that the Christian mission everywhere had to cut its links with colonial and commercial penetration by the West. The prophetic eloquence of that book explained his appointment in 1956 as editor of the SCM Press Britain's leading theological publishing house, but he was neither a scholar nor an administrator by temperament and was happier when called to serve on the national staff of the Church of England for ten years from 1959, as secretary of the council for ecumenical co-operation which became the Missionary and Ecumenical Council.

Enthusiasm for reunion with the Free Churches was then at its height, and he was saddened by the failure to secure adequate Anglican support for "organic" union. In all this he was close to Archbishop Michael Ramsey.

In 1970 Paton moved to Gloucester. He continued to serve the missionary and ecumenical movement, especially as chairman of the churches' China study project and as editor of the report of the 1976 assembly of the World Council of Churches. He was honoured for that and as a chaplain to the Queen, as an honorary canon of Canterbury.

He was rector of the ancient church of St Mary de Crypt until 1981 and exercised a rare gift for pastoral friendship, comforting the afflicted and afflicting the comfortable. One of his pleasures was the upkeep of supportive friendships with Chinese Christians.

After his retirement he maintained many of his interests, and kept his vision. In spite of his disappointments, he is survived by his wife Alison and their three sons.

GIORGIO PERLASCA

Giorgio Perlasca, Italian livestock agent and businessman who saved the lives of thousands of Hungarian Jews during the second world war, died at his home in Padua on August 15 aged 82. He was born in Como, northern Italy, on January 31, 1910.



IT WAS his record as an enthusiastic fascist and a fighter for Franco in the Spanish Civil War, together with his sense of humanity and bravery, that enabled Giorgio Perlasca to rescue, from his base in Budapest, at least 5,000 Jews from deportation to Hitler's gas chambers between 1944 and 1945.

Like the Swedish diplomat Raul Wallenberg, Perlasca provided Jews who were about to be deported with false papers to enable them to escape from Nazi persecution and find refuge in a neutral country. Unlike Wallenberg, he was not a real diplomat, and while Wallenberg's fame has been magnified by his mysterious disappearance in Soviet custody, Perlasca returned to a life of obscurity in Italy after the war.

Giorgio Perlasca was born into a middle-class Catholic family in Como. A youthful admirer of Mussolini, he served as a volunteer with Italian forces in Abyssinia before fighting for Franco in the Spanish Civil War. But the introduction of racial laws in Italy and the alliance with Hitler's Germany destroyed the last residue of his fast waning admiration for the Italian dictator. Having been called up by the Italian army in 1938, he soon found himself at odds with his superior officers, and was discharged after a couple of months.

Perlasca then devoted his energy to cattle trading, working for a while in Yugoslavia and subsequently in Hungary. After the fall of Mussolini in July 1943, Perlasca was in-

termed as an enemy alien in a camp near the Austrian border but three months later escaped and returned to Budapest. There he was able to use his service in the Spanish Civil War to claim the protection of the Spanish embassy in Budapest. He returned the favour by helping the embassy with its programme of assistance to Hungarian Jews.

Spain, along with other neutral states such as Sweden, Switzerland, Portugal and the Vatican, was active in protecting Jews claiming any link to a neutral country. They were provided with refuge in safe houses and papers so that they could leave Hungary.

Such efforts were much needed. Of the 825,000 people considered to be Jews living on Hungarian territory,

565,000 perished in the Holocaust between 1941 and 1945. Perlasca is credited with personally saving around 5,200, and some 25,000 emerged from the safe houses of the neutral embassies in Budapest at the end of the war.

After the departure of the Spanish envoy to Budapest in November 1944, Perlasca simply slipped into his shoes and, with the aid of an embassy seal which had been left behind, passed himself off as the new Spanish consul in order to continue providing protection to Jewish refugees. It was a miracle that the impostor was not unmasked, but the impossibility of direct communication between Budapest and Madrid was certainly an advantage.

Perlasca has described how the representatives of the neutral countries, including himself and Wallenberg, would visit the Budapest railway station to attempt an 11th-hour rescue of those about to be deported.

On one occasion, Perlasca said, he and Wallenberg succeeded in snatching two 12-year-old boys, identical twins, from no less a person than Adolf Eichmann. Perlasca dragged them out of a queue of deportees and bundled them into the Spanish embassy car.

The fake Spanish consul "Jorge" Perlasca succeeded in representing his adoptive country in Budapest for six weeks until January 16, 1945, when Soviet troops entered the city. After the last embassy car broke down Perlasca would march through the streets of Budapest accompanied by a policeman carrying the Spanish flag.

After the war Perlasca lived in almost total obscurity until a group of Holocaust survivors succeeded in tracking him down to his home in Padua in 1989. Following this he was honoured by Israel and received official recognition for his actions in the United States, Spain and Hungary.

When he visited Jerusalem to receive the tribute of the Israeli government a woman approached him and presented him with a single rose. With it was a note reading: "You saved two members of my family and with them my faith in human kind, a faith which was disappearing."

Perlasca himself gave a modest explanation of his war time choices. "I could not bear the sight of people being branded like animals. I could not bear to see children being killed. I think it was this, I don't think I was a hero, I saw people being killed and, simply, I could not bear it. I had the chance to act and I acted. Anyone would have done the same thing in my place."

BARBARA MORGAN

Barbara Morgan, photographer of modern American dance and especially the Martha Graham troupe, died in North Tarrytown, New York, on August 17 aged 92. She was born in Buffalo, Kansas, on July 8, 1900.



Barbara Morgan's photograph of Martha Graham in *Every Soul is a Circus*

NO ONE ever captured the essence of Martha Graham's dramatic choreography the way Barbara Morgan did. During a six-year collaboration the two women produced images that have lasted more than half a century and still retain their power and energy. And yet, but for a lucky series of coincidences, the collaboration might never have come about.

Morgan was an artist by training and avocation, not a photographer. At the time of her marriage in 1925 she was on the art faculty at the University of California in Los Angeles teaching landscape painting, design and woodcut. When she and her husband moved to New York City five years later she established her own studio and exhibited paintings in New York galleries. She regarded photography as journalism, not art.

But her husband, Willard, was a news photographer. A pioneer of the Leica camera, he was later to become the first picture editor of *Life* magazine and the first director of the photography division at the Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan. Willard tried constantly to persuade his wife to take up photography and, after the birth of their second son in 1935 had left her little time for painting, she reluctantly consented.

Martha Graham was six years older than Barbara Morgan. She had joined the Denishawn school, founded by Ruth St. Denis and her partner Ted Shawn, in 1916. The school was dedicated to extending dance beyond the confines of classical ballet. But this did not satisfy

Graham and she spent the late 1920s developing her own expressive and very individual style, eventually establishing her own company. By 1930 she had choreographed her first major work, *Lamentations*, and this was followed the next year by

Primitive Mysteries. The latter ballet, with its intense religious feeling, was to inspire Barbara Morgan, who saw it almost by chance in New York. She became fascinated by its treatment of ritual in the American south west, and decided that photography could,

in conjunction with dance, after all be art. The two women became lifelong friends, and Morgan's work with the troupe resulted in the 1941 book *Martha Graham: 16 Dances in Photographs*, which was to become

the centrepiece of both their careers. During the same period Morgan captured the images of many other modern American dancers, among them José Limón, Doris Humphrey, Pearl Primus, Charles Weidman, Erick Hawkins and Merce Cunningham. Her dance photographs, she said, were never intended for publication or documentation; they were metaphors, created to catch the symbolic image that epitomised the dance or dancer.

In common with Graham, she believed that gestures could express profound emotional truths. Morgan's photographs, Martha Graham wrote in 1980, revealed "the inner landscape that is a dancer's world."

After 1945 Morgan largely abandoned her dance photography and turned to making pictures of children, trees and plants, and creating evocative photomontages and light drawings.

"I thought the only way I could be true to my creative imagination," she wrote in the introduction to one of her later books, "was to work with photomontage. And as a mother concerned for the future, I felt the obligation to express the increasingly complex problems of our world with the hope of inspiring affirmative change."

The sentiments might have been high flown but the photographs remain impressive. Barbara Morgan continued to exhibit her work frequently until the 1980's, and was an avid letter-writer. Her correspondence with William Carlos Williams, Margaret Mead, Joseph Campbell and Edward Weston — the latter was a strong influence on her early photography — is considered a rich historical source. She was widowed in 1967 and is survived by her two sons.

APPRECIATIONS

Lord Cheshire

DESPITE failing health and many prior commitments, Leonard Cheshire (obituary, August 3) tried hard at various high levels to persuade British authorities appropriately to commemorate the service and sacrifice of aircrew from the Old Dominions in the second world war.

The first three months of 1944 saw success for German night-fighter defences when 763 four-engined aircraft and crews were shot down in major night raids over Germany. This loss was equivalent to 80 per cent of the available heavy bomber strength.

In Leonard Cheshire's view, such casualties could have been halved if British governments had not initially opposed the manufacture of the Mosquito aircraft.

But there was no shortage of Dominion aircrew. In 1988 Leonard Cheshire wrote "Britain never stood alone. From the word go, the Commonwealth was there too...By

1945 almost half of Bomber Command's pilots came from Australia, Canada and New Zealand. Had this not been so, I do not see how we could have survived, let alone finally have brought to an end Hitler's mad and terrible pursuit."

Leonard Cheshire never ceased to try and find ways of giving concrete expression to the debt he felt Britain owed to the entire Commonwealth, especially Australia. His efforts to persuade trustees of St Clement Danes (RAF) Church and the Air Force Board to erect suitable plaques recording the sacrifice of the young Dominion aircrew were not successful.

Also he felt that the Imperial War Museum could do more to expand permanent exhibitions relating to Dominion aircrew.

Unfortunately time was not on his side and ill-health prevented him from availing himself of a Parliamentary platform more publicly to raise these matters.

Malcolm Hardwick

John Cage

John Cage (obituary, August 14) was a close friend and colleague of the late Marcel Duchamp (1887-1969) and his wife Mrs. Duchamp. One of their many points of interest was the game of chess in which Marcel Duchamp excelled. Mr. Cage orchestrated the highly evocative work entitled "Reunion" (1968) and which was performed at the Ryerson Theatre, Toronto. The chess board was connected to an electronic amplification system which registered sounds when each move was made on the board. Mr. Cage played Mr. Duchamp.

One of John Cage's last

visits to this country was in February 1991 to attend as guest of honour, along with Teeny Duchamp, the highly successful day given to "Art and Chess" held at the Tate Gallery, London. Indeed, their presence guaranteed success with Mr. Cage occupying centre stage in the latter part of the day during the forum debate.

He was very quiet of voice and unassuming and used words in a succinct and often humorous way.

Both guests of honour were later feasted with dinner at the Chelsea Arts club that concluded the day's symposium.

Barry Martin

Borislav Pekić

MAY I draw your attention to some errors in your obituary of Borislav Pekić (July 9.)

As you say, Pekić was born in Montenegro and his father was a Montenegrin, but he always considered himself a Serbian writer. He studied psychology at the University of Belgrade after his release from prison in 1953 (not in 1950 as you claim), but never graduated in it. He was arrested in

1948, when he was only eighteen, and still a pupil at his Belgrade secondary school.

Mr. Pekić lived in London from 1971 (not 1970), but never thought of his London years as the years spent "in exile".

He was never banished from his country and he continued to publish and gain awards for his books in Yugoslavia throughout these years.

Dusan Pavačić, School of Slavonic Studies, University of London.

H. D. West

"Dick" Westlake (obituary, August 8) — he was never "Henry" to his friends — had two very difficult tasks. Not only did he succeed T. B. L. Webster at Manchester, but whatever plans he had for promoting classics there were blighted at the outset because the two departments of Greek and Latin were separate entities and the occupant of the Hulme Chair of Latin, an older man, had a very dominating personality. The

friendliest meetings I recollect between the Hellenists and Latinists took place at the Westlake home, as we watched the Varsity rugby match.

Professor Westlake fought a successful fight against an impediment of speech which made public occasions hard for him. His family life was very dear to him, and his wife, Molly, who survives him, gave him tremendous support, and was much liked in the city and the university.

Professor H.H. Huxley

AUGUST 22 ON THIS DAY 1959

Epstein and controversy were rarely far apart. Even in recent years, "Rimur", his memorial to W.H. Hudson in Hyde Park, has been vandalised.

SIR JACOB EPSTEIN

Sir Jacob Epstein, K.B.E., perhaps the outstanding sculptor of his generation, and certainly the most controversial, died at his London home on Wednesday. He was 78.

So many battles have raged around him that it has often been difficult to give a just estimate of his rank and powers as an artist. That most of the controversies have been irrelevant, on religious, moral, or political rather than artistic grounds, does not make the task any easier, because whether an artist is overblown or over-praised on the wrong grounds, the effort in the cause of truth is likely to be strained in either case. So many silly things were said in denunciation of Epstein that it became almost a duty to say more in his defence than was really believed...

and indecency, but they were stoutly defended by competent judges of many professions, as well as by *The Times*, as the first serious attempt in this country since the Gothic period at a true relationship between sculpture and architecture, with the single exception of Alfred Stevens...

The same kind of criticism was applied to Epstein's group of "Day", which, with his "Night", decorates the base of London Transport headquarters, designed by Messrs. Adams, Holden and Pearson. His attack upon the senses was often violent. The last 20 years brought him no respite, from the rumour that his work seemed to attract as a solitary tree attracts lightning. There was "Adam", carved from a block of Derbyshire alabaster, weighing three tons, and standing over 7 ft. high, which fetched eventually £7,000, "Eve Homo" (the subject of recent controversy and still without a name, "Consummation Est"), a giant reclining figure of Christ crucified, and "Lazarus", carved out of a block of Hopton Wood stone. His skill and ability to produce the startling and the stimulating showed no signs of waning, as was revealed when, in April, 1957, "Christ in Majesty", executed for Llandaff Cathedral, was shown for the first time; a towering 16 ft. figure cast in aluminium seen by the sculptor himself as his greatest act of faith, it indeed was a creation of tremendous power.

Making every allowance for the merits of the monumental works, their dignity and their force in expansion, it is possible that Epstein's fame will rest upon his bronzes, his portrait bronzes in particular, works of often astonishing virtuosity. He produced some fine figures and groups in bronze, such as the touching "Visitation" in the Tate Gallery, and the "Madonna and Child", from Indian models, which was shown at Kneidler's in 1930. As an executant he was at home in all materials, but he did not conceive so happily in stone as in bronze, in which he was prolific...

JOHN THOMPSON

John D. Thompson, an academic whose ideas revolutionised the financing and evaluation of health care in the United States and many other parts of the world, died of cardiovascular arrest at the Yale-New Haven Hospital on August 13 aged 75. He was born in Franklin, Pennsylvania.

HEALTH care costs in the United States are notoriously high, but they might be even more exorbitant if it were not for the work of John Thompson and his Yale University colleague Robert Fetter. Starting in 1967, Thompson and Fetter developed a system known as diagnostic-related groups, or DRGs, which divided thousands of ailments and treatments into standard categories. These were then used to calculate and compare costs, lengths of hospital stay and treatment success.

Although on the face of it the system had nothing to do with the actual treatment car-

ried out, the results of its adoption by the federal government for hospitalised Medicare patients were dramatic. Average hospital stays in the US dropped from 11 days in 1981 to 8.5 days in 1991 for surgical cases, and from 9.4 days to 7 days for non-surgical illnesses. The doctors had not become any more clever, or the patients any more swift in their recovery. The simple fact was that under the previous system, hospitals were reimbursed by the government on a per-diem basis for the number of days their patients remained in hospital. But the DRG scheme paid them a fixed fee based on the average cost for treatment of a particular condition. Suddenly, robbed of the incentive to make extra profits by prolonging the patient's stay, the hospitals discovered they could expedite the treatment.

The American medical establishment is highly resistant to change, especially when money is at stake, and it was 1983 before Thompson's ideas gained widespread accep-

ance. Since then the concept has been adopted by some private insurance companies, with the states of New York, New Jersey and Maryland, making it mandatory. It also formed the basis for the recent health plan in Oregon, which would have been the nearest approach to the US to a universal health scheme if it had not been vetoed by the Bush administration.

John Thompson had been head of the division of health policy, resources and administration at Yale since 1974, having joined the faculty in 1956. He got there by an unusual route, training as a male nurse at the Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan and becoming head psychiatric nurse there after service as a chief warrant officer in the second world war.

Thompson then earned a bachelor's degree from City College in his spare time, and went on to get a master's degree in hospital administration from Yale.

He is survived by his wife, six daughters and one son.

Irene Scouloudi, secretary and editor of *The Huguenot Society* from 1951 to 1987, died in London 31 July 1992 aged 85. She was born in Manchester on April 2, 1907.

IRENE Scouloudi devoted practically all her life to the study of the Huguenots, especially those who came to England in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

She was the youngest child of François Scouloudi, a French citizen of Greek ancestry, who later took British nationality. Irene grew up in Notting Hill and was educated mainly privately at home. She went to the LSE to read history, where her interest in the Huguenots was developed. Her master's degree in 1936 was awarded for a thesis on the "Stranger" community in late sixteenth-century London. The following year she read a paper on the subject to the Huguenot Society and so began an association which remained until she was 80.

IRENE SCOULUDI

After war work in Guildhall, reorganising the badly damaged library stock after the Blitz, she assisted W. N. Medlicott with his books on the history of the second world war. But her study of the Strangers in sixteenth and seventeenth century England then became her chief concern. In 1951, after ten years on the council of the Huguenot Society, she was appointed its secretary and editor, the first woman to occupy the posts.

For 36 years she found scholars to contribute to the society's proceedings and to its publications. She wrote numerous papers and reviews herself as well as two highly valued volumes, one with her friend A. P. Hands on the relief of Huguenots by the French Church of London during the grand refuge, published in 1971, and the other, in 1985, on *Return of Strangers in the Metropolis, 1593-1639*, based on newly discovered material. She also edited the papers of the 1985 conference, held at the Royal

Society, to commemorate the tercentenary of the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes under the title of *Huguenots in Britain and their French Background, 1550-1800*, writing one paper herself.

She was a capable administrator with a strong commitment to the society's library in University College, London. Her courteous style, humour and way of life belonged to an earlier, perhaps gentler England, as did her dedication to the highest standards of scholarship. She will be remembered by many who attended meetings of the Huguenot Society, the London Topographical Society (her *Panoramic Views of London, 1660-6* was a model), the British Archaeological Association (of whose journal she was editor from 1951 to 1974) and latterly the Institute of Historical Research, which made her a fellow in 1988.

She died, in 1962, a charitable trust known as the Twenty-Seven Foundation which gives to a wide range of national charities.

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

Richie Rowlands, union convener at Halewood, said: "This is very regrettable

Lay-offs, page 15



The woman, 41, thought to have been married with several children, was named last night as Isobel Leyland. She was hit in the back by a single bullet when a joint army and police patrol in the city's Ardoyne area was fired on.

The shooting came as security forces braced themselves for a further outbreak of violence after a breakaway element of the Irish People's Liberation Organisation (IPLO) admitted killing Jimmy Brown, one of its own top members, on Tuesday.

Police said gunmen took over a house in Jamaica Street and mounted their attack from a bedroom window from a range of 150 yards. They described the killing as a "completely indiscriminate, reckless and senseless act". There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the killing but the IRA was thought to be responsible.

□ In London a security alert caused commuter disruption for the second successive night when Blackfriars rail and underground stations were closed after a suspect package was discovered. The stations reopened within an hour.

The city's fleeing citizens have nowhere to run because there is little left except rubble. The banks of the Kabuli river east of the city are packed with people living in grass or canvas shelters, waiting for the fighting to end so that they can go home. Others have gone further east to the mud city of Jalalabad, where the markets are filled with produce they cannot afford. Many people are re-

These things are answerable to nobody. Travellers remove watches, hide their cash and hope to get through unscathed. The road from Kabul to Jalalabad is carved up between Mujahidin factions. Men who want a lift aim rifles at drivers to make them stop. This is hitch-hiking Afghan style. When they

Ten million landmines planted during the last war await them when they return to farming. All that sustains them in their early months is a UN handout of 300kg of wheat and the equivalent of \$65 in cash. This is supposed to enable them to survive until the first harvest. There are highway robbers with other ideas.

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Where paper starts from, as the adage has it (8).	1 Saw one's sweetheart achieve best result possible (8).
5 Current in a wide part of river (6).	2 Short suit and vest being worn (9).
10 Nobody returned after vote — what a gas! (5).	3 Card games for the crew (5).
11 Boys like some legends (9).	4 Half of alphabet used in any detailed analysis (7).
12 Drink extracts maximum from tipster (4,5).	5 Under a legal obligation — clear? (1-4)
13 Awfully 'ard and firm legislator (5).	7 European agreements for novelist (5).
14 Content fits awkwardly into report (7).	8 Keep two little boys together (6).
16 Cut semi-circle. I see (6).	9 Fed up about Eastender, it's said (6).
19 Pass on intelligence, taking spy chief's place (6).	15 No part of Lovelace's prison block (9).
21 Republic needs soldier at a city in (6).	17 'ighly charged feeling between best friends. In nutshell context (3,3,3).
23 Able to move supply? Left with one article (5).	18 Girl has loaf, and fruit from tree (8).
25 Conventional and old-fashioned drawing instrument (3,6).	20 Accident is hard to locate in chart (6).
27 Run badly in main games, unfortunately (9).	21 Easily hit a birdie — follow that? (7).
28 An American poet: a University study (5).	22 Surprised British exclamation of surprise (6).
29 Yorkshire opener soon appearing in Wisden, say (6).	24 Part of opera to read over endlessly (5).
30 Sort of movie that's highly enjoy-	26 Birds flinch (5).

[illegible]

PARKER
DUOFOLD

A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address

MACROBIAN
a. To do with microbes
b. Long-lived
c. An early Christian heretic

PEOFF
a. A fielder at cricket
b. The Hebrew letter F
c. To part in lavish possession

QUARTAN
a. A four-day fever
b. A liquid measure
c. A stay-still

EPIZEUXIS
a. A word of order
b. Emphatic verbal repetition
c. Zeus's drinking song

Answers on page 12

For the latest AA traffic and road works information, 24 hours a day dial 0838 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE

C. London (within N & S Crea.)	73
M-ways/roads M4-M1	73
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T.	73
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M25	73

Midland	73
National	73
National motorways	73
West Country	73
Wales	73
Wales	74
East Angles	74
North-west England	74
North-east England	74
Scotland	74
Northern Ireland	74
AA Roadwatch is charged at 38p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute	

For the latest region by region forecasts 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	70
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	70
Wiltshire, Hereford & IOW	70
Wiltshire & Cornwall	70
Wiltshire, Gloucester, Avon, Somerset	70
Berkshire, Bedford, Oxford	70
Warwickshire & Essex	70
Northampton, Cambridgeshire	70
West Midland & Staffs & Gwent	70
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester	70
Central Midlands	70
East Midlands	70
Lincoln & Humberside	70
Yorkshire & Lancashire	70
Gwynedd & Chyrwyd	70
NW England	70
W & S Yorks & Wales	70
North Wales	70
Cumbria & Lake District	70
SE Scotland	70
Central Scotland	70
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	70
E Central Scotland	70
Grampian & E Highlands	70
N Scotland	70
Galleshire, Orkney & Shetland	70
N Ireland	70
Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 60p per minute at all other times.	70

Concise Crossword, page 12
Weekend Times section

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: R Simpson, The Cottage Bowl Hill, Kingscourt, Stroud Gloucestershire; C R Smiles, Bargain House, Richmond, North Yorkshire; O'Brien, St Margaret's, Down Street, Ayr, Scotland; D B Cathcart, Little Barleys, Milverton, Taunton, Somerset; C Henderson, 'Rosedale', Furze Close, Annfield Plain, Stanley, Co Durham.



Scotland and Northern Ireland will be cloudy for much of the day and there will be rain, some of it heavy. Turning brighter later on with some sunshine, but showers as well. Wales and western England will be mainly cloudy and early showers will turn into more continuous rain. Central and eastern England will be cloudy with some sunshine. Outlook: sunshine everywhere for a time but wet and windy weather will spread to most places.

[illegible]

Area	AM	HT	PM	HT	TOMORROW	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	8.59	8.6	8.16	5.9	London Bridge	8.59	8.7	8.24	6.7
Abingdon	8.59	8.8	8.16	5.9	Abingdon	8.59	8.8	8.24	6.7
Avonmouth	12.33	9.4	1.4	10.2	Avonmouth	1.50	9.8	2.26	8.9
Belfast	5.21	8.1	8.1	5.1	Belfast	8.54	8.0	7.14	5.5
Belfast	12.33	9.7	1.4	10.2	Belfast	1.50	9.8	2.26	8.9
Devonport	11.50	8.4	1.2	10.0	Devonport	12.23	4.3	1.16	4.8
Dover	9.57	8.5	8.51	6.5	Dover	11.28	8.3	7.0	5.4
Falmouth	12.21	4.2	11.58	4.1	Falmouth	12.21	4.1	12.08	4.0
Glasgow	4.47	8.1	7.21	4.2	Glasgow	7.41	4.0	8.22	4.1
Harwich	4.57	8.5	8.20	3.4	Harwich	7.41	8.5	7.59	3.8
Holland	12.34	4.8	12.34	4.8	Holland	12.34	4.8	12.34	4.8
London	8.59	8.0	12.44	5.9	London	1.21	6.7	2.14	5.8
Luton	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	Luton	7.10	3.7	8.0	3.5
Margate	6.9	4.1	6.30	2.1	Margate	1.12	5.2	1.56	2.1
Milford Haven	11.58	8.1	12.28	4.3	Milford Haven	12.28	4.3	12.28	4.3
Newcastle	11.58	8.1	12.28	4.3	Newcastle	12.28	4.3	12.28	4.3
Penzance	11.15	4.4	11.47	4.3	Penzance	12.32	1.4	2.11	1.4
Portland	12.10	4.8	12.51	1.0	Portland	1.33	7.8	2.11	1.4
Portsmouth	9.28	8.2	9.51	4.0	Portsmouth	1.33	7.8	2.11	1.4
Shoreham	5.7	4.8	5.47	4.8	Shoreham	6.28	4.7	7.17	4.8
Southampton	5.18	3.7	5.54	3.8	Southampton	6.45	3.7	7.18	3.8

GLASGOW		GLASGOW	
Wednesday Yesterday: Temp: max 6pm to 8pm, 18C (48F); min 6pm to 8am, 12C (48F); Rain: 24hr to 5.6in, 9.00in, Sun: 2.4hr to 5pm, 4.4hr.		Thursday Yesterday: Temp: max 6pm to 8pm, 22C (72F); min 6pm to 8am, 11C (52F); Rain: 24hr to 5pm, n8, Sun: 2.4hr to 5pm, 6.3hr.	
TOWER BRIDGES		TOWER BRIDGES	
Tower Bridges will be lifted at the following times today: 7am, 11.5am, 7.00am and 8pm.		Tower Bridges will be lifted at the following times today: 7am, 11.5am, 7.00am and 8pm.	
EASTGATE BRIDGE		EASTGATE BRIDGE	
TODAY London 8.4pm to 5.59 am Bristol 8.12 pm to 6.9 am Edinburgh 8.22 pm to 6.9 am Manchester 8.30 pm to 6.43 am Penzance 8.27 pm to 6.24 am		TODAY London 8.4 pm to 6.3 am Bristol 8.16 pm to 6.40 am Edinburgh 8.30 pm to 6.2 am Manchester 8.19 pm to 6.4 am Penzance 8.30 pm to 6.25 am	
TOMORROW		TOMORROW	
London 8.4 pm to 6.2 am Bristol 8.16 pm to 6.40 am Edinburgh 8.30 pm to 6.2 am Manchester 8.19 pm to 6.4 am Penzance 8.30 pm to 6.25 am		London 8.4 pm to 6.2 am Bristol 8.16 pm to 6.40 am Edinburgh 8.30 pm to 6.2 am Manchester 8.19 pm to 6.4 am Penzance 8.30 pm to 6.25 am	
WEDNESDAY		WEDNESDAY	
Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud: f, fair, e, sun.		Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud: f, fair, e, sun.	
Selfish 18 61 f Grampian 18 61 f Blackpool 18 61 f Bristol 20 89 c Cardiff 18 61 f Edinburgh 18 61 f		Guernsey 17 63 f Harwich 18 58 f Jersey 18 61 f London 21 70 f Manchester 18 54 f Newcastle 18 54 f	
Bank 20 89 c Belfast 18 61 f Birmingham 18 61 f Cardiff 18 61 f Edinburgh 18 61 f London 21 70 f Manchester 18 54 f Newcastle 18 54 f		Bank 20 89 c Belfast 18 61 f Birmingham 18 61 f Cardiff 18 61 f Edinburgh 18 61 f London 21 70 f Manchester 18 54 f Newcastle 18 54 f	
Australia 5 2795 Bahamas 22 61 Belgium 10 58.50 Canada 2.42 Denmark 11 45 Finland 9.24 France 10 58 Germany 2.42 Greece 14.57 Hong Kong 18.50 Ireland 11.07 Italy 1.245 Japan 262.50 Netherlands 61d Norway 3.32 Portugal 2.59 Spain 18.50 Sweden 10.85 Switzerland 2.215 Turkey 14.400 USA 5 2.18 Yugoslavia 2.00		Australia 5 2795 Bahamas 22 61 Belgium 10 58.50 Canada 2.42 Denmark 11 45 Finland 9.24 France 10 58 Germany 2.42 Greece 14.57 Hong Kong 18.50 Ireland 11.07 Italy 1.245 Japan 262.50 Netherlands 61d Norway 3.32 Portugal 2.59 Spain 18.50 Sweden 10.85 Switzerland 2.215 Turkey 14.400 USA 5 2.18 Yugoslavia 2.00	

Georgia 15 04 17 Mercury 16 01 5
 Rates apply to travellers' cheques.

TODAY  Sun sets: 5:57 am Moon SETS : 4:43 pm NEW MOON AUGUST 28	Sun sets: 6:5 pm Moon RISES: 11:55 pm NEW MOON AUGUST 28	TOMORROW  Sun sets: 5:55 am Moon SETS : 4:48 pm NEW MOON AUGUST 28	Sun sets: 6:6 pm Moon RISES: 1:0 am
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Information provided by Mac Office.

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Thursday: Highest day temp: Salcombe, Devon, 25C (73F); lowest day max: Fair Isle, Shetland, 14C (57F); highest rainfall: Hemsby, Norfolk, 1.30in; highest sunshine: Anglesey, Gwynedd, 12.2hr.

Yesterday: Temp: max: 8am to 8pm, 22C (72F); min 8pm to 6am, 14C (57F). Humidity: 8pm, 52 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6pm, nil. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 6.3hr. Bar: mean sea level, 6m, 1,013.3 millibars, falling. 1,000 millibars—29.53in.



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WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY AUGUST 22 1992

A midsummer night's scream

Fun in the heat means parties, power tools and enough noise to drive the most patient of us barmy. Clive Aslet reports

Hush... Have you heard? Probably not, if the people next door are in the habit of listening to the local radio station whose disc jockeys rejoice in the catchphrase: "If the neighbours aren't complaining, it's not loud enough."

But this is Noise Awareness Month. Surprised that it is held in August, when half the population has taken its jet-skis and ghetto blasters abroad? You shouldn't be. April may be the cruellest month, but August bids fair to be the most aurally offensive.

The reason is simply that it's summertime. In the summer, life becomes a semi-public affair, much of it taking place outdoors, often in the hearing of others. People leave the windows open. They're in the garden. We all, collectively, have barbecues (barbecues "have caused an explosion of complaints this summer", says an environmental health officer from Guildford Borough Council). One man is redesigning his shrubbery with a chain saw, or enjoying the new Tina Turner album while fixing the engine of his car, can banish contentment from an entire neighbourhood of deck chairs. Skateboards, power tools, car alarms, model aeroplanes — on long, warm evenings, they tune up as inevitably as an orchestra at the proms. Who wants to suffocate behind tightly shut double-glazing?

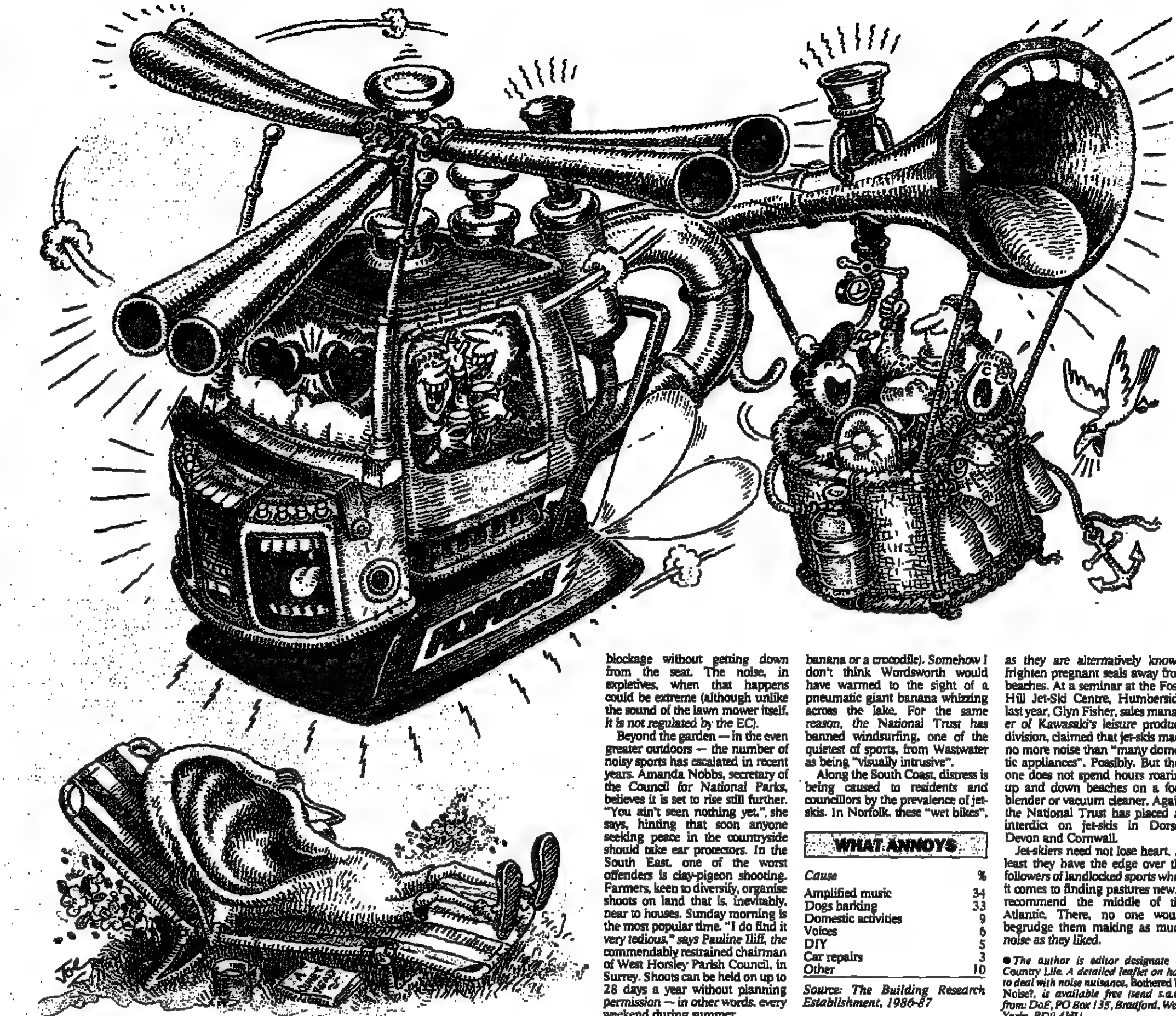
Summer attracts visitors to the countryside. Perhaps mistakenly, given that agriculture is largely an industrial process happening in the open air, some of them expect it to be quiet. But an increasing number of recreational activities demand machines. Conflicts abound. Take, for example, the solitary fellwalker, expecting at any moment to be smitten with "the joy of elevated thoughts, a sense sublime of something far more deeply interwoven, / Whose dwelling is the light of setting suns". The wave he gives to the excursion helicopter, come to give trippers a view of the summit he has just struggled up, will not be cheery.

In a London park it is only to be expected that, from time to time, someone else's football will land in the middle of the picnic rug. But the offence is compounded when, as a friend recently described, a baseball game is accompanied by a broadcast commentary ("Go for it, Tiffany") from portable amplifier and loudspeakers.

"Nobody wants to be a party-pooper," says Lord Strathclyde, the minister with responsibility for noise, "but what is enjoyable listening to one person may be someone else's unwanted noise." Very reasonable, but he might take a different tone if it were 3am and the bedroom still echoed with the sounds of partying from across the street. After all, who are the selfish, inhuman degenerates who can make such a racket? And why wasn't I invited?

Oddly enough, those festive souls who provoke complaints tend not to be intentionally antisocial, just exuberant. That, at least, is the view of Margaret Tomlinson, a member of the Noisy Party Patrol of Westminster City Council, charged with the unenviable job of keeping the lid on boisterous parties. (Contrary to popular belief, the police have almost no powers over noise; under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the duty of controlling it falls to local authorities.) "The majority of party-givers are genuinely amazed that an environmental health officer should turn up," Ms Tomlinson says. "We get a great deal of co-operation."

Apart from rave parties, such as the one in Derbyshire that has been going on continually since June, most parties are one-offs. But recurrent or perpetual noise is not merely an inconvenience, but a nightmare. Barking dogs (33 per cent) nearly equal amplified music (34 per cent) as the most common source of noise complaint.



blockage without getting down from the seat. The noise, in explosives, when that happens could be extreme (although unlike the sound of the lawn mower itself, it is not regulated by the EC).

Beyond the garden — in the even greater outdoors — the number of noisy sports has escalated in recent years. Amanda Nobbs, secretary of the Council for National Parks, believes it is set to rise still further. "You ain't seen nothing yet," she says, hinting that soon anyone seeking peace in the countryside should take ear protectors. In the South East, one of the worst offenders is clay-pigeon shooting. Farmers, keen to diversify, organise shoots on land that is, inevitably, near to houses. Sunday morning is the most popular time. "I do find it very tedious," says Pauline Illiff, the commendably restrained chairman of West Horsley Parish Council, in Surrey. Shoots can be held on up to 28 days a year without planning permission — in other words, every weekend during summer.

War games can be another source of stockbroker country. Surely, though, the spate of a paint ball does not make much noise? "No," says the environmental health officer from Guildford, "but the plonkers running around pretending they are soldiers do." In their way, war games illustrate the need of an increasingly sophisticated, urban society to rekindle the passions of the wild. This also explains the almost insupportable demands being placed on the wild countryside of our national parks. Microlights, air balloons, trail bikes and other off-road vehicles are an even greater management headache than conventional cars. Even some motor caravans (equipped with fax machines) have entered the "all-terrain" era, allowing holiday-makers to get far away from civilisation — without leaving a personal bubble of comfort. A wild landscape abash with comfort bubbles could lack romance.

The planning authority for the Lake District National Park is seeking to impose a 10mph speed limit for boats on Windermere. This is intended to make water-skiing impossible. Not surprisingly, it has provoked opposition from the various commercial interests around the lake, who claim that it is not the fast boats that make the noise, but the phut-phut machines going at less than 10mph. To traditionalists, however, there is something inflammatory about the notion of a speedboat, whether towing a skier, a parasailer (like a hang-glider), an airchair (a kind of seat on a hydrofoil), a ringo (something that looks like a tractor tyre with handles) or a plastic "inflatable" (typically, shaped like a

banana or a crocodile). Somehow I don't think Wordsworth would have warmed to the sight of a pneumatic giant banana whizzing across the lake. For the same reason, the National Trust has banned windsurfing, one of the quietest of sports, from Westwater as being "visually intrusive".

Along the South Coast, distress is being caused to residents and councillors by the prevalence of jet-skis. In Norfolk, these "wet bikes",

as they are alternatively known, frighten pregnant seals away from beaches. At a seminar at the Fosse Hill Jet-Ski Centre, Humber-side, last year, Glyn Fisher, sales manager of Kawasaki's leisure products division, claimed that jet-skis made no more noise than "many domestic appliances". Possibly. But then one does not spend hours roaring up and down beaches on a food blender or vacuum cleaner. Again, the National Trust has placed an interdiction on jet-skis in Dorset, Devon and Cornwall.

Jet-skiers need not lose heart. At least they have the edge over the followers of landlocked sports when it comes to finding pastures new. I recommend the middle of the Atlantic. There, no one would begrudge them making as much noise as they liked.

● The author is editor designate of Country Life. A detailed leaflet on how to deal with noise nuisance, *Battered by Noise!*, is available free (and s.a.e.) from DoE, PO Box 135, Bradford, West Yorks. BD9 4HU.

WHAT ANNOYS

Cause	%
Amplified music	34
Dogs barking	33
Domestic activities	9
Voices	6
DIY	5
Car repairs	3
Other	10

Source: The Building Research Establishment, 1986-87

Brian Leonard of the Kennel Club has no time for the owners of such baying hounds. "It is bad stockmanship to allow dogs to bark all day," he says. "Barking is an easy problem for owners to deal with." Recently, an animal psychologist in California trained his dog, in a Pavlovian way, to stop barking at the sound of a buzzer. The psychologist then took a wire from the buzzer and installed it, with a push button, in his neighbour's house. Dog barks. Neighbour activates buzzer from his own living room. Dog stops barking. What could be more satisfactory?

To Patrick Ramsay, of the estate agents Knight Frank & Rutley, noise is the ultimate drawback when it comes to buying a house. "You can usually hide ugly developments from view, but you cannot really get away from noise," he says. Bad smells could, perhaps, be equally disturbing and inescapable, but they are generally inflicted by chemical plants, not people. Bad noises are often within the control of individuals, and that is one reason why they cause passions to run high. In June at Winchester Crown Court, Mr Justice Turner freed on probation a 32-year-old man found guilty of manslaughter for killing his neighbour. The man had been driven "barmy" by the sound of the neighbour's television, left on at full volume even when the latter was asleep. It ended in a fight, during which the neighbour fell downstairs. "People who use noise as a weapon must be prepared for their victims to defend themselves," commented John Connell, chairman of the Noise Abatement Society.

In some instances, sound-makers do not realise the effect they are having on the other side of a party wall. I remember a cousin who, at a tender age, had started to learn the accordion. The one tune he could play was "God Save the Queen". Eventually a neighbour came round to protest, not about the accordion-playing itself, but about the fact that, as a loyal subject, he felt compelled to stand up every time he heard it. That, of course, was before the Environmental Health Act 1990. Now noise nuisances can end in court.

Earlier this month a trumpet player defended his right to practise before a court in Coventry. Working during the day, he could only practise during evenings and at weekends. His neighbours have young children; the trumpet can be heard all over their house. The judge ruled that the practice could continue, but only on four days a week, for an hour at a time.

Increasingly, it seems, social pressures work against the trumpet-playing classes. "The public now has a higher expectation in terms of quality of life, and that means less noise," says Roy Templeman, from the environmental services department of Coventry City Council. "Added to this, the construction of domestic dwellings provides a lower level of sound insulation than before. In some dwellings, you can hear next door's television all over the house, even when it is played at a moderate volume." We could, he says, learn something from the Scandinavian countries, which have much tough-

er rules on insulation. Better insulation would avoid cases such as that of the elderly lady who claimed to have been driven almost to a nervous breakdown by the sound of her neighbour's chiming clock. A notice was served and the chiming was silenced. No wonder the number of complaints to local authorities about domestic noise — many of them in the summer months — have more than tripled in 12 years, from 18,000 in 1978 to 62,400 in 1989-90.

Like most environmental health officers, Mr Templeman knows of at least one complaint about sex. It was the crashing of a headboard against a party wall and the sound of explicit conversation that required his department to step in. Result: the headboard was moved away from the wall and the couple concerned agreed not to talk dirty. They could, of course, have taken another course — sound-proofing their house. The danger is that all the hammering will, in the meantime, wake the neighbours.

Summer is the season for DIY. The welkin rings with the sound of power drills and banging. Dangerous as well as noisy stuff. Any charge nurse in a casualty department will regale you with grisly tales of people falling off ladders, hitting their thumbs and fingers, and worse. The garden is another minefield. The Home Accident Surveillance System calculates that lawn mowers and hedge trimmers may, between them, cause as many as 11,000 accidents a year. The worst misadventures happen with ride-on power mowers — daddy's dodgem car with a whirling blade. Feckless users lean over to free a

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ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 3



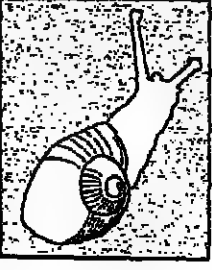
It's only natural, but Lynne Truss's feathers get a bit ruffled over the personal habits of some fiendishly clever beasts

GETTING AWAY, PAGES 8,9



Paris in August? Mais oui, says Alice Thomson, staying cool off the tourist track by day and bopping till dawn

SHOPPING, PAGE 11



How does your garden grow? With giant snails, steel watering cans and long Tom pots from the ultimate accessory shop

Man and superbeast — no contest

Lynne Truss on the new orthodoxy that man's cleverness is as nought compared with the built-in advantages of animals



A BRIGHT green leaf-frog sits on a twig in an Argentinian forest, and blinks. It pauses, stock still. Possibly it is thinking what to do next, but then again, possibly it has no recollection of what it did last. Either way, it suddenly extends a long-fingered hand like a magician and, without moving any other part of itself, starts to massage its head, face and body with the sort of intensity and dexterity (and blank faraway stare) usually associated with the professional masseur. Still expressionless and unmoving, it changes hands. Finally, its back legs concern itself and down its back, massaging its shoulders. It is amazing. And it is all done without mirrors.

Why does the leaf-frog produce waxy, fatty stuff from a gland and then rub it all over its body, using all four limbs? Well, partly because it can. Surely, most people would give their right arm to be able to do what the leaf-frog can do with its left leg. But the series *Walk on the Wildside* (BBC1), much as it has a light-hearted tone, would hardly support such a non-scientific explanation. In fact, this frog is not surprising itself. And the point (I think) is that, unlike man, it can undergo a complete top-to-toe skin conditioning job without paying 30 quid an hour or learning Swedish.

Walk on the Wildside is presented by Simon King, a fresh-faced young man who (appropriately, this week, when the theme was personal cleanliness) always looks scrubbed and slightly damp, as though straight from a squash racket shower-room. Being the principal wildlife photographer on *Walk on the Wildside*, he is obliged to deliver his linking passages from a cramped darkroom filled with lenses and film cans — though whether this is a real room, or a set mocked up to resemble his normal habitat, is not clear.

The only thing that's obvious is that he is not terribly comfortable in it: which is again appropriate, because the ineptness of man in his environment (contrasting with the efficiency of nature) is the gist of *Walk on the Wildside*, as it is of most nature progess days. To make the point thoroughly he ought to flail about and knock things over.

But King's rather stooped appearance aside, *Walk on the Wildside* is great viewing, authoritative but anecdotal, requiring of the viewer only three things: a

TV REVIEW

preparedness to be amazed, a sense of humour, and an attention span roughly equivalent to that of the Argentinian leaf-frog. Every week there is some snippet that makes you exclaim "Gah!", and relate it to people next day — last week the sea bird that controls its temperature by (wait for it...) deliberately squirting guano down its legs and letting it dry. Gah!

This week, there was the giant gecko that repeatedly licks its lidless sticky-out eyes, the hippo that secretes its own sun block, the sea snake that ties itself in twisting tumbling knots to knock the barnacles off, and the heron that combs out its feathers with a special attachment fitted (by nature) to its claws.

Call me touchy, however, but I do slightly resent the implicit dig at humankind in all this. The American land crab keeps its eyes in great shape by dunking them in special hairy, wet eye sockets, whereas silly old *Homo sapiens* is obliged to shell out for Optrex. The heron has its built-in hairbrush, whereas humans buy implements made from tortoiseshell. The jay makes a point of disturbing an ant's nest, so that the angry ants will hose its feathers with formic acid and kill its lice — whereas humans honestly wouldn't know where to start if they found themselves in a similar situation.

How well regulated the animal kingdom is, then, for cleanliness. Nasty, brutish and short, I grant you: but in hygiene top of the list. The old proverb is true: it's an ill bird that fouls its own nest.

In *Walk on the Wildside*, we had only one example of an animal that doesn't keep itself clean — a screech owl from North America, which, evidently fouls its own nest with such gusto it is scarcely able to budget for the heaps of owl droppings, rotting mice, ant eggs and fly larvae littering the place (I think I saw an old pizza box as well). Fortunately for its health, into the screech owl's life occasionally comes a blind snake (caught alive and kept in the nest for later eating), which by an extraordinary stroke of evolutionary luck happens to regard ant eggs and fly larvae as a source of food, and so sweeps up the filthy nest smacking its chops and thinking Christmas has come.

What was not explained was whether the owl either notices or appreciates the difference when



Top of the hygiene list: frogs ooze moisturiser, hippos produce sunblock, herons use a hairbrush, owls have a live-in vacuum cleaner

this treasure of a reptile does the wildlife equivalent of running round with the Hoover, shouting "No trouble at all!". Does anyone consider that the owl might resent this well-meant interference, having deliberately chosen to let things slide? I mean, whose nest is this, anyway? The trouble with a clean home, as Joan Rivers once memorably pointed out, is that it is a rod for your own back. You wash dishes and change beds, and six months later you've got to do it all over again. An owl, being a wise old bird, would know this.

Letting things slide and not seeing what happens is not the usual response of man to nature, but last night's *Survival Special: Keepers of the Kingdom* (ITV) was an amazing record of what can happen when the vegetation of an African national park is allowed to take care of itself over a 30-year period. The very opposite of *Walk on the*

Wildside's anecdotal approach. Simon Trevor's film was an epic study of the impact of elephants on a landscape, refuting the view that culling solves everything, and proving that vegetation and wildlife can come to their own arrangements.

Keepers of the Kingdom was also a vindication of a lifetime's work of (photographically speaking) shooting first and asking questions later. This nature reserve in Kenya was dense bushland when Trevor started filming in it (about 1960); since then, it has been completely transformed into open plains of lush grass, having looked like Armageddon in between.

Elephants ate the trees (we watched them do it, circa 1961) and turned the place into a blasted battlefield — memorial jagged spikes, red wind, rock. But this was not necessarily a bad thing. Trevor upholds, because grass grew instead. Elephants died, too, in thousands, but this was not necessarily a bad thing either, since the

strongest survived. Plus, of course, their corpses were recycled where they fell, feeding lots of other animals, and so on: vital minerals back to the earth, et cetera. Nature knows best; you got it.

The contrast with the brutality of culling, filmed in a South African national park, was made quite, well, quite brutally, with horrific pictures of the animals herded by helicopter, trumpeting in panic. Trevor asserted that elephants, like us, have a sense of death; and I believed him absolutely. Footage of a bull elephant knocking bones about (with the hollow "clack" of leather on willow) looked like plain old bereavement to me.

Trevor told the story of a zoologist who took a cow elephant's jawbone back to her camp at night, and was visited by the elephant's son, who reclaimed the jaw, with a poignant display of feeling all the teeth.

"I think that elephants are meant to destroy trees, so that nutrients are returned to the soil more quickly,"

Trevor said, contentiously. Showing us views from fixed spots in the national park ("Here it is in 1972; and this is 1991") he made his point. This was no desert (as the culling proponents had warned); the transformation of the vegetation meant that water is now retained better. Plus, there is today a wider variety of species in the park. Plus, tourists can see further in grassland than they can in bush.

By all accounts, then, the elephant is a pachyderm hero, who even benefits the country's economy by bringing in hard currency. Wow. Just another of nature's inadvertent miracles.

And just another excuse, of course, to bang you over the head with the new orthodoxy that all of man's cleverness is as nought compared with the innate advantages of the heron, the elephant and the Argentinian leaf-frog — the latter of whom reaches the parts that other species cannot reach, even after half a dozen lagers.

TV PREVIEW

● *Cross of Fire* (Tuesday and Wednesday, BBC1, 9.30pm) Another American mini-series, in the same format as the recent *An Inconvenient Woman*, and with roughly the same theme — though thankfully the chances of it including a scene of Roddy McDowall suddenly swallowing a wasp in a rose garden are remote. (Astounded death by oral wasp sting is not a plot device that convinces more than once, probably.)

Instead, *Cross of Fire* promises to be the modern-day liberal equivalent of D. W. Griffith's *Birth of a Nation* — a Ku-Klux-Klan story, based on real events, in which the clansman is not the saviour but the black-headed villain, and the women still get raped.

The female protagonist is played by Mel Harris (the faultless Hope from *Thirtysomething*), and the man who kidnaps, rapes and half kills her is a so-called Grand Dragon, played by John Heard. It all happens in 1923, in Indianapolis, and the Grand Dragon thinks he can get away with it and still run for President. But ... can he?

● *Star Trek* (Wednesday, BBC2, 6pm) You know that old cliché, "If you didn't know about such-and-such you must have been on the Planet Zog", well, if you didn't know that *Star Trek* is being repeated on BBC2 (starting this Wednesday), all I can say is you were not concentrating, or were on holiday or something. But you can't have been on the Planet Zog, because that's where Jim and the boys are!

USS *Enterprise* crew members mysteriously drop dead on Planet M-113, much to Captain Kirk's bafflement. Have they all swallowed wasps, then? No, mysteriously the salt has been completely removed from their bodies by a mysterious force. A beautiful woman appears in different forms to different people, too. Will Kirk fall in love with her? Ho ho. A bit like asking if you can change the laws of physics.

● *Coast of Dreams* (Wednesday, Channel 4, 9pm)

Timely repeat of Malcolm Brinkworth's antidote to *Eldorado*, a two-part examination of real life for ex-pat Brits on the Costa del Sol. Mike and Betti Thompson are the couple I mentioned in my review of *Eldorado* on July 11: they work 16 hours a day in their bar, struggling to break even, with Betti cooped in a windowless kitchen in temperatures of 38C cooking roast-beef-and-Yorkshire.

The most poignant aspect of their lives, as I remember, is that although Betti always dreams of having her own swimming-pool, they still can't afford one. So, on her afternoon off, she floats in a little tank in the back garden, trying to look happy about it.

L.T.

Record review: Bobby Brown, Ephraim Lewis, Airtro Moreira, and a summer bouquet of recorded Elgar

From US slick to British snooze

He is 23 years old. He sold 12 million copies of his last album, *Don't Be Cruel*. And in recent weeks he has crossed the final frontier of celebrity by appearing with his new bride, Whitney Houston, on the cover of *Rolling Stone*. But who is Bobby Brown? For all his fame and riches, he remains an oddball character. Individual. We know he was the child-star singer with New Edition, and apparently he used to run with a fairly rough crowd before he discovered God. But if he has a personality he has kept it well hidden.

His new album, *Bobby* (MCA, MCD 10695), offers no fresh insights. Sleek, efficient and up to the minute, it harnesses a sophisticated combination of soul, pop and polite rap to the funky dance-floor beat known as new jack swing. With most of the writing and production duties shared between Teddy Riley (who produced much of Michael Jackson's *Dangerous*) and the celebrated LA and Babyface team responsible for Brown's last multi-platinum smash, nothing is left to chance.

But while his voice and the choice of songs are adequate, the album fails to dispel a lingering impression of Brown as a hard-working

but hollow Jackson/Prince/Hammer composite. At its best *Bobby* functions as a slick, upmarket party soundtrack, especially the heavy, synthesized thump of tracks such as "That's The Way Love Is" and the current single "Rumpin' Around". But the goody stuff about "winning" and "dancing beautiful women" lacks resonance, and a lovey-dovey duet with Whitney called "Something In Common" is as tame as this sort of thing comes.

The difference between Brown's tightly sprung delivery and the laid-back sound of British soul crooner Ephraim Lewis could not be more pronounced. Born in Wolverhampton and resident in Sheffield, where he recorded his debut album, *Skin* (Elektra 7559-61318), Lewis displays a voice which ranges from a sensual bass register to a graceful falsetto on material that ebbs and flows with the laid, fascinating vigour of a deep-water current.

He pushes his luck at times, imitating when he comes the line about "lying here beside you" in "Drowning in Your Eyes" — it is difficult to decide whether he has been carried away by the passion of the



Tightly packaged: Bobby Brown delivers a party soundtrack

moment or is about to doze off. For Lewis, less is more, but the synth-dominated arrangements never lack for warmth, and the dynamics of a song like "Mortal Seed", with its measured pace and gradual build-up, maintain interest beyond initial expectations. The mysterious air of "Sad Song" with its jazz-reggae inflections is reminiscent of Sade. Whatever happened to her?

DAVID SINCLAIR

Drumming up visions of Brazil

JAZZ

Aside from the proprietor's old joke about the Japanese attack on Pearl Bailey, one of the most ancient rituals at Ronnie Scott's is the extended tambourine solo by Airtro Moreira. Back for another residency, the Brazilian drum-master has been indulging himself yet again, this time at the helm of the incandescent fusion group Fourth World.

Moreira's frenetic set-piece conforms, on the surface at least, to the traditional image of the wild-eyed Latin timbalero. Yet there is a more introspective and spiritual dimension to his craft. The son of a faith-healer, he believes his music can perform a similarly therapeutic function: these are, he says, "healing sounds". Whether or not you are convinced by his claims, there is no denying the soothing, ethereal quality of *The Other Side of This* (Rykodisc RCD-10207).

The world music project was put together under the aegis of Mickey Hart, the Grateful Dead percussionist, who previously worked with Moreira on sessions of the soundtrack to *Apocalypse Now*. Like his compatriot Nana Vasconcelos, Moreira evokes the life of his native country with a battery of drums and traditional instruments such as the berimbau.

A hypnotic experiment in pure rhythm, the album is less immediately accessible than the swooping jazz-rock of Fourth World, but still effective on its own terms. For those of a more, well, Californian disposition, the sleeve notes also provide instructions on exercises to be performed while listening.

Another way to clear the cobwebs from the head is to sample the powerhouse blues phrasing of the guitarist John Scofield. Now re-issued, his 1987 session *Blue Matter* (Grapevine GRV-87022) sounds more and more like one of the handful of truly great jazz albums of the decade. None of his subsequent bands has generated quite as much heat, and none has had a drummer as powerful and precise as Dennis Chambers.

HILARY FINCH

CLIVE DAVIS

Under the spell of the wartime fairies

Elgar always comes into full flower in the summer, with *Three Choirs*, *Promising Pomp and Circumstance*, and the inevitable plethora of Germanic dreams in one festival after another. This summer also sees a generous bouquet of recorded Elgar.

A new release from Sir Charles Mackerras and the orchestra of the Welsh National Opera of the two *Wand of Youth* suites, coupled with the more elusive songs from *The Starlight Express* (Argo 433 214-2), makes for a revealing comparison with Sir Edward Elgar's own recordings of those pieces. These are to be found in a five-CD set of archive material painstakingly transcribed from private collections in Pearl's *The Elgar Edition 1914-25* (Gemm CDS 9951-5).

The Starlight Express, a fantasy play by Algernon Blackwood for which Elgar wrote incidental music, was first performed at the Kingsway theatre at Christmas 1915, which accounts for the showbiz rhapsody on "The First Nowell" which rather alarmingly rounds the whole thing off. It is, of course, as far removed from its namesake at the Apollo Victoria as *Phantom of the Opera* is from *The Coronation of Popea*. The ditties, though, could well have been the result of a Disney commission to Walter de la Mare for the libretto of *Mary Poppins*. The grown-up world has lost its way; this is a plea for childhood vision — or rather an adult's perception of it in the second

winter of the first world war. The Welsh National Opera Orchestra warms to the magic curtain-up panache of much of the writing and, in this well-balanced recording, lets every percussive moment sparkle the writing. Bryn Terfel, though, seems part of that "weary world" which "Exiled overlong from Fairyland... has rather lost its way".

For all the intelligence and grooming of his singing he has nothing like the projective imagination of Elgar's own baritone, Charles Mott. Mott is clearly already under the spell of the blue-eyed fairy, for he sings with many a wink and a nudge, as well as the odd sob and sigh, surfacing through the crackling 78rpm acoustic. Alison Hagley, for Sir Charles, is truly childlike in her

"Laughter" song and her tales of stargazing and morning spiders.

The new disc also provides sympathetic performances of two short orchestral pieces, *Dream Children*. The vintage collection moves from Elgar's very first recording, the tiny salon piece "Carissima", to an important moment in the performance of the Second Symphony. Recording techniques of the time (explained by Jerrold Nordrup Moore in an admirable essay) often demanded abridgement and even re-orchestration. After the same Charles Mott has got his tongue round *The Princes of the Fleet*, listen to the cadenza of the Violin Concerto, accompanied by single harp instead of the usual thrumming strings.

HILARY FINCH

CLIVE DAVIS

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

DAME SHIRLEY PORTER

Former Lord Mayor of Westminster

Where would you go? The Sussex Downs. I've always loved the English countryside and, although I didn't like my school in Worthing, walking across the downs now reminds me of my favourite childhood memories.

How would you get there? By horse and trap.

Where would you stay? With friends in a little farmhouse tucked beneath the downs.

Who would be your perfect companion? I'd like a guru to teach me about the flowers and birds that live on the downs.

Who would be your least welcome guest? Anybody who reminded me of the real world.

What essential piece of clothing would you take? A track suit and walking boots.

What medicines would you take? Insect-bite cream and aromatherapy oils for the bath.

What would you have to eat? Simple food, locally grown and fresh. I eat lots of salad.

What would you have to drink? Draught cider, and a glass of vodka and tonic when the sun goes down.

What would you read? Poetry by Sylvia Plath and Percy Shelley, and Michael Burns's new biography, *Dreyfus: A Family Affair*. I would also like to look at a beautifully illustrated book on gardens.

What music would you listen to? Mahler, Sibelius, Verdi and, if it was a long weekend, Wagner.

What would you watch on television? Top-class golf.

What film would you watch? *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café*.

Would you play any games or sports? I'd swim, play tennis and golf and go down to the local pub for games of darts and snooker.

What luxury would you like? A Jacuzzi (my Walkman is an essential, not a luxury).

What piece of art would you like to have there? A state-of-the-art 35-year-old.

Which newspapers or journals would you read? Magazines such as *Country Life*, *Vogue*, *Harpers & Queen* and *Good Housekeeping*.

What three things would you most like to do? Ride a horse to the shops, have lunch in a remote inn that banned piped music and any kind of pinball machine, and

retained its original atmosphere, and paint the landscape.

What three things would you leave behind? My diary, portable telephone and evening dress.

To whom would you send postcards? No one. I would have organised my office to send them before I left for the weekend.

What souvenir would you bring home? A good idea for promoting London that had tangible results — something I could always remember the weekend for creating.

What would you like to find when you got home? That everybody had managed without me — then I could go away again with a clear conscience.

Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet

Throwing a spanner in the works makes an old man happy

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

THE story so far: our harvesting machine, the binder, has reached the ripe old age of 60 years and has been dealt a near-fatal blow. In a moment of inattention we drove her into a tree, breaking a large and vital cog. Knowing something of the antiquity of this machine, all the local agricultural engineers hastily declared themselves too busy or went on holiday. But one man just might answer the call: an engineer of the old school who has faced these fiendishly intricate machines before and lived to tell the tale. Now read on.

The good news is that he said yes, he would come. He would have been far happier tending his bursting garden vegetables and enjoying his retirement, but for the sake of my increasingly urgent harvest he would "see what he could do". He arrived with his spanners — rather surgically, I thought — in a washing-up bowl. It was appropriate.

I am not squeamish about blood, but to me the sight of a broken cog the size of a dinner-plate had been almost too gruesome to behold. I nearly fainted. In fact, the night before I had a dream in which visions of mutilation, blood and cogs were all interwoven.

But my mechanic had the stomach for it. He reached for a hammer, weighed it in his hand and then settled for a heavier one. He tapped. Then he tapped again a little harder and still nothing moved. This was not good: we had to take the thing off before attempting a repair, and since cog had been married to shaft for 60 glorious years it was going to take a mighty blow to effect a divorce. At least, that is how I would have done



it. I would have found the heaviest blunt instrument I could lift and simply pounded the immovable gear into submission. This, of course, would have caused even more damage: which is why the mechanic opted for a lighter hammer and tapped in the opposite direction. They were not wild, undirected blows; every impact counted until the joyful moment when the cog came free and I could whisk it away to the blacksmith who thought he might manage a repair.

But the joy on my face was nothing compared with the delights on the mechanic's when he had hit it and put the hammer quietly into its bowl. Here was a piece of machinery that belonged to an age with which he could relate.



Modern farm machinery, although infinitely more effective than my aged gear, has a menace about it. It can mangle a man in a minute without even pausing. It runs at high speeds and is so heavy

that only a powerful tractor can move it. On the other hand, horse-drawn gear ticks over so slowly that grease and oil seem hardly necessary; and there are very few items on this farm which two of us cannot

muddle out of the way if we need to. Things, they say, come in threes. Later that afternoon we were to add a third beaming grin to our two happy ones. With the cog expertly welded and the binder once again about to reap the corn, an elderly face appeared over the farm gate. This is not an unusual occurrence here, for as soon as the horses are jingling along, the thrashing machine humming or the binder clattering, the sound is a clarion call to relics of a previous age. Some old men come to admire and enjoy sights they remember from their youth; harder cases will stare witheringly at your furrows with criticism written plainly across their faces. In most of the traditional farming techniques which we employ there are a hundred different things to get right, and if you have only mastered 99 of them they will notice it. And mention it.

But it was not a critical face that appeared over the gate. It was an old boy simply longing once again to get up on that binder seat and cut a few swathes through the corn, as he had last done 40 years ago. It must have been like rediscovering a train set from one's childhood. He strode across with a new alacrity in his step and eagerly accepted my invitation to "have a few rounds off". "My ol' dad use t' say, 'I can't off' the sun don't shine," he told us. We looked at the cloudy sky but decided to press on. And I am glad we did, for the smile on his face outshone anything the sun could have produced that afternoon.

Good old binder. This time last week I wanted to scrap it as no more than a grumpy tangle of canvas, gears and cogs, rightfully obsolete these 40 years. Today it has made two good men happy. I relieve it: it can live to break my heart another year.

Gardens to visit

□ Norfolk: The Plantation Garden, made in a steep chalk quarry with terraces down to trees and lawns below, Victorian-style tiered fountain and bedding. 4 Earham Road, Norwich, near St. John's RC Church (entrance between Crofters and Beeches Hotels). £1.50, child free. Open tomorrow for National Gardens Scheme, 2-5.30pm; also Sundays 2-5.30pm until Oct. (0603) 616023.

□ Wiltshire: Ashtree Cottage, beautiful, well-planted garden designed around thatched house, with rose and clematis pergola, lawns and uncommon plants. Kilvington Common, Warminster, signed beyond Stourton, 3m from Mere on B3092. Plant sales, £1, child 50p. Tomorrow for National Gardens Scheme, 2pm-6pm (0985) 844740.

□ Highland: Dunbeath Castle, walled garden with splendid herbaceous green-house plants, vegetable garden, heather display and woodland walk. Take A9 to Dunbeath village post office, then take old road 1.4m S to Dunbeath Castle. Tues. £1.50, child 50p. tomorrow, 2-6pm.

Sweetest scent of summer

Francesca Greenoak admires the expert growers of more than 350 varieties of sweet pea

Whenever I neglect to plant sweet peas I regret it all summer, and never more than when I visit Unwins, the celebrated sweet pea grower and breeder. Its Cambridgeshire trial grounds are the biggest sweet pea trials in Europe, and they represent the ultimate in sweet pea knowledge and development.

Among the 350 different varieties tested, there are some new kinds recently donated by Russian growers, several which are put forward by amateur gardeners for trial, and many which are bred by Unwins itself. These are grown in colour or type groupings for comparison against existing best-sellers, or to act as parents in future breeding programmes.

Despite competition from half a dozen novelties, there was clearly nothing to beat the

GARDENING

current best-selling white Royal Wedding or the cream Jilly for shape, form or scent, although I liked the slight greenishness of the White Leamington. It has not yet proved possible to breed an orange variety which does not scorch in hot sun. A new, dark pink flower from amateur grower Andrew Bean was a good colour, and more fragrant than its comparison plants. Also very fragrant, Her Majesty, bred by David Kerley, commercial director at Unwins, opens cerise, its large flowers deepening to ruby-rose. It will be on sale for the first time in the autumn catalogue.

Old Times, an old-fashioned sweet pea, is reckoned to have the strongest fragrance of all. Its pretty, creamy-coloured

flowers have a lavender blush. Another cream, the fragrant Hunter's Moon, is also renowned for its scent. Columbus is an attractive new, very pale blue variety which, deriving from multicoloured parentage, gives five or six blooms on each flowering stem.

Growing sweet peas for the show-bench is undeniably time-consuming and fiddly, but if you ignore the exhibition requirements it is quite easy to grow good-quality sweet peas without fuss. All you need is a patch of good, fertile, well-manured soil, such as that in a vegetable patch, and some twiggly or wire-mesh supports.

Starting sweet peas off in September or October in a cold frame and transplanting them in spring gives a stronger start and means that they begin to flower earlier. They should grow slowly and sturdily with plenty of light and air;



Parental guidance: David Kerley at Cambridgeshire, where Unwins conducts the biggest sweet pea trials in Europe

they can sustain light frosts but will need protection in very cold conditions.

Erect the supports before planting and then plant the seedlings in rows or rings, in pairs, about six inches apart. If the autumn crop has met disaster in the form of swill

weather, mice or slugs and snails, spring-sown seed will do perfectly well, although the plants will start to flower later. (Saved seed will last for a year at least.) So long as the ground is fertile, it should not be necessary to feed the plants; in fact over-feeding has a dele-

rious effect. The one important rule is to cut off the flower spikes as they fade, because once the plant has set seed it will cease growing and producing the new flowers, which should keep coming well into late summer.

□ Unwins Seeds (0223) 236236.

Events

□ Essex: Castle herts trials. Incorporating the FEI European Cup qualifier and the Land Rover FEI World 3DE. Rider: Kanking table. Adm. (0776) 61207. Thurs-Sun, 9am.

□ Hampshire: country fair. About 100 exhibitors show their skills. Shire horse display, dancers and jazz band. Events Garden, 100 Hill, Kent (0732 750367). Today and tomorrow, 11am-5pm. £3, child £1.

□ Hampshire: field sports. Goose competition, terrier racing, fly-casting competition, dog show, clay pigeon shoot, plus many side shows. The Grange, Northampton, near Abingdon, Hants (0725 22336). Tomorrow, 10.30am. £4.50, coins £2.50.

□ Hockley: showjumping. High-class field for the Silk Cut Hockley Derby. All-England Showjumping Course, Hockley, Essex (0273 834315). Thurs-Sun, 10am. £6-8.

□ Lincolnshire: show. British Open horse trials championships, plus programme including sheep dogs, dog agility, fly fishing and craft fair. Gossage Park, near Stroud, Glouce (0203 696697). Today and tomorrow, 10am. £12-618.

□ Shropshire: open day. Sheepdog handling, fell running, fell pony parade, terrier racing, vintage vehicles, craft stalls and demonstrations. Waters Farm, Shropshire (09316 273). Tomorrow, 12.30-5pm. £1, coins 50p.

□ Southport: flower show. One of the county's top flower and horticultural shows, plus family entertainment and fireworks. Victoria Park, Southport (0704 533133; ext. 2308). Today, 10am-8pm. £6-£6.50, coins £5.50-£6.

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And now, one for festival snobs

Musical snobs come in two varieties. The first sort rate Tchaikovsky's popular music on a par with a tabloid newspaper. You should never be caught enjoying such lurid smut — but of course you must know exactly what is in it, so as to adopt a tone of high moral repugnance.

The second sort are more sophisticated. They accept all that, but claim there is also a "hidden Tchaikovsky", a rarely revealed trove of delicacies that appeal not to the masses but to the most discriminating palates.

Snobs of the first variety are well advised to avoid Edinburgh altogether this year. The leakage of untreated Tchaikovsky into nearly every corner of the festival's music programme will surely drive them crazy ("my dear, the noise, the people, the Tchaikovsky"). For the sophisticated snobs, however, the pickings are rich: pieces of Tchaikovsky rarely heard in this country are being aired.

A prime example is *The Oprichnik*, the third of his ten operas. It was premiered in the same St Petersburg season (1874) as Mussorgsky's *Boris Gudonov*, well received, but then suppressed by the composer. He was too self-critical: even the problem-filled concert performance that the opera received at the Usher Hall on Thursday conveyed its abundant excitement.

If they are honest, the snobs should confess that the "hidden Tchaikovsky" of *The Oprichnik* actually offers exactly the same kind of experience as the *Pastorale* Symphony and *Swan Lake*: a deep well of highly charged melody that never seems to run dry; a blatant sense of emotional turmoil; and evidence of a musical intelligence more attuned to making an impact than to long-term planning. In fact the structure of *The Oprichnik* is peculiarly ramshackle, and it says much for the power of Tchaikovsky's music that the opera maintains such dramatic tension.

The story is of the usual, morbid Russian-opera variety, in which all love — filial, romantic or patriotic — is either warped or doomed. Andrey, whose father has been killed and mother impoverished by unspecified business, sets out both to avenge them and win Natalia, who is betrothed against her will to an old man. To do that, he unwisely joins Ivan, the Terrible's elite band of thuggish bodyguards, the oprichniki.

The evil prestige thus acquired seems to bring him his desired goals, but the triumph is short-lived. Cursed by his mother, he is also tricked by

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL



OPERA

his enemies. The oprichniki drag Natalia off to be raped by the Tsar, and then by off Andrey's head. His mother is forced to watch, and drops dead. Quite a jolly ending by Tchaikovsky's standards — at least nobody commits suicide.

One glory of the opera is its choruses: winsome and folksy for village maidens early on, baleful and savage for the oprichniki later. The solo writing is mostly in an impassioned, free-flowing style that allows swift changes of mood. Nothing is better than the anguished Act III duet between Andrey's mother and Natalia.



Mark Ermler: he was the conductor on Thursday

That brought out the best from Galina Gorchakova — a passionate Natalia, once she had properly warmed up — and a powerful Russian-Korean mezzo, Ludmila Nam, who gave a storming performance. A young baritone, Vladimir Glushchak, impressed as the baddie ringleader.

Unfortunately the central role, Andrey himself, was taken by a tenor, Paolo Kudriavchenko, who was clearly ill; his attempted top notes probably hurt him more than they did us. That was one disappointment. The other was the way that the conductor, Mark Ermler, allowed the Scottish Opera orchestra to overpower the soloists, and even the full-bodied Scottish Opera chorus. Yes, Tchaikovsky did write amazing horn parts, but not so amazing that they should obliterate all else.

RICHARD MORRISON

Salzburg: Rodney Milnes sends his first report from the festival now under Gerard Mortier's direction

Sorting out saints and sinners

Having invented Arts Politics, the Austrians play the game rather well, but they may have met their match in Gerard Mortier, the Salzburg Festival director. The battle lines are drawn up. On one side, sharpening their knives for Mortier in the first festival on which he has stamped his personality, are the good tradespeople of Salzburg. They accuse him of programming nasty modern music by composers such as Janáček and Messiaen in nasty modern productions and frightening visitors away. Conveniently, they forget that Karajan gave them Berio and Schoenberg. And surely they cannot seriously be accusing Mortier of arranging a world recession off his own bat to spite them.

In the event, opera performances are full. But the Salzburg traders then say the starting times are wrong and it is too late for customers to eat afterwards. In all this it must be remembered that — as in Edinburgh — the festival is seen to be there to serve the townspeople, not vice versa.

Gossip and speculation of the most delicious and reprehensible nature — another Austrian speciality — are rampant. They say Riccardo Muti staged a carefully planned walk-out from *La Clemenza di Tito* because he sensed the Salzburgers would see Mortier off and he, Karajan's natural successor, would ride to the rescue. The Vienna Philharmonic called a press conference to regret the engagement of inferior foreign orchestras — no names, of course, but the local press jumped on the Los Angeles Philharmonic from a great height and were determined not to be impressed by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Simon Rattle.

On the other side is Mortier, who is notorious for a tongue like a whip with little bits of metal woven into it, and does not give a damn for anyone. He comes back fighting at his unmissable weekly press conferences, and with the sweetest of smiles pours vitriol on defecating singers such as Marilyn Horne and Jessye Norman, says the record companies, puts Muti in his place and does not bother to hide his contempt for relics of the old regime. It all adds greatly to the gaiety of nations and — the object of the exercise on both sides — keeps Salzburg in the headlines, which is really what it's all about.

I would put any money I had left after a week in this notoriously expensive but lovely city on Mortier. He has artistic principles and a vision of what a festival ought to be. Moreover, he is a fighter with precious little regard for the Queensberry rules. Good for him.

In this context the first night of Messiaen's *St François d'Assise* in the Felsenreitschule on Monday was the perfect *Shandak*: bags of booing, bags of cheers, and in the end the cheers had it. All save the most implacable local critics were forced to admit that it was magnificently played by the LA Phil under Esa-Pekka Salonen and, with José Van



Holy irrelevant? St François d'Assise (José van Dam) seated on one of the television monitors

Dam in the title role, magnificently cast from top to bottom.

The work is, of course, a perfect festival piece: it is never going to be a repertoire opera, engaging us as it did for six and a half hours, and in a good Catholic country it could become Salzburg's *Parsifal*, to which in the Bühnenweihfestspiel it is not unanalogous. It is, I believe, a comparable masterpiece.

The battle lines were unfortunately muddled by Peter Sellars's produc-

tion, which was the now-familiar blend of moments of genius sitting cheek by jowl with silliness on an epic scale. Within Georges Teyssier's vertiginous set were suspended or placed 40 television monitors showing up to five home movies all at once, shot with hand-held cameras and bobbing up and down in the most infuriating — if not health-hazardous — fashion. Within five minutes you realised they were of minimal relevance, but it is hard to ignore

something so buttonholingly insistent and (as in *Parsifal*) once your concentration on word and note is broken, even Messiaen's grip is fatally slackened.

The nadir came in the scene of the stigmata: Van Dam was placed far upstage to one side, while downstage centre was occupied by 21 monitors built up into three crosses, an image of monumental and intolerable religio-kitsch. Against this were scenes — the healing of the leper, the Angel's

gift of music — that stopped the heart. Van Dam, one of the world's great singers, gave an interpretation of spellbinding eloquence and poesy, and there were impressive performances from Dawn Upshaw (Angel), Ronald Hamilton (Lepre) and, as assorted monks, Tom Krause, Thomas Young and the promising young Swedish baritone Urban Malmberg. If only Mortier had been as ruthless as his reputation and thrown all those wretched monitors into the Salzbach.

But the main problem Mortier faces is what on earth to do with the Grosses Festspielhaus. Its acoustics were devised by Karajan to give the orchestra undue prominence; its absurd letter-box proscenium opening would defeat a divine conflation of Reinhardt, Stanislavsky and Felsenstein. I fear the only thing to do is dynamite it and start again.

Go. Friedrich's cool, straight-lined production of *Die Frau ohne Schatten*, sadly lacking fantasy and colour in Rolf Glittenberg's decor, was certainly defeated. It was notable mainly for singers 20 yards apart straining both to establish contact with each other and to be heard over the Vienna Philharmonic in full cry under Sir Georg Solti. A genuine orchestral pianissimo seems impossible; the voices are heard as if through a veil. Only in *tutti* does the orchestral palette convince: even the Viennese strings sound scratchy on their own, the woodwind is ear-catchingly immediate, the brass simply deafening.

Eve Maron (*Dyer's Wife*) occasionally rode the storm with sheer lung-power, but whenever a fine cast including Mariana Lipovsek (Nurse), Thomas Moser (a musical but slightly underpowered Emperor) and Robert Hale (a solid Barak) sang less than full out, they risked inaudibility. Bryn Terfel made his mark as the Spirit Messenger, and I would love to hear Ellen Shade's radiant, pliantly phrased Empress in a proper theatre.

Michael Hampe's solution to the problem for his production of *Le nozze di Figaro* is to build his own little theatre in the middle of the stage and block the rest off — fine, but I should hate to have been sitting anywhere to the side. As it was, a seat in a box took the edge off the orchestra and Bernard Haitink took good care to keep the Vienna Philharmonic in check. The singers were blessedly audible.

This was a standard international cast: Thomas Allen (Count), Lucia Popp (Cotume), gracefully overcoming a nasty accident in the Letter Duet), Sylvia McNair (a sweet but underprojected Susanna) and Ferruccio Furlanetto (an unacceptably coarse Figaro). Basilio (Robert Tear) got his aria: Marcellina (Klara Takacs) did not.

International festival? The production, of the sort to render "conventional" an adjective of deepest opprobrium, was dead from the neck up. Gossip has it that Hampe is not a Mortier favourite, and one saw why.

Love is king, reason abdicates

THEATRE

Don Carlos
Lyric Studio,
Hammersmith

Schiller's dramatic works animate mighty principles and yet, as the plays of the North Sea. We should not berate ourselves for insularity, however, because Start Here Productions' ambitious staging of his first verse play confirms the impression left four years ago after Nicholas Hymer's production for the Royal Exchange: the play's colossal potential is wrecked by the absurd demands of its love interest.

Romantic Classical Tragedy is a suitable label for the plays of Schiller's generation and his immediate successors, where high matters of state are imagined as turning on the panting hearts of lovers. *Don Carlos* contains scenes of riveting interest between man and man, and has an Act III confrontation between Philip II of Spain and his son-substitute, the heretic Posa, that is one of the most thrilling scenes in dramatic literature.

On a black stage bordered with sombre marble strips, sparsely furnished with a table and a leather chair, the grim king discovers that rarity in Spain, a man who speaks from the heart. Terry McGinley's eyes penetrate the pretensions of the king's real son, Carlos, and his whole bearing, attentive but impatient, shows how piercingly he reads the crooked hearts of his courtiers. McGinley projects a tight yet mellifluous voice that has been ground free of any humanity so that the king's speeches of private grief are uttered without hope of comfort.

Suddenly he meets the ar-



Philip II of Spain (Terry McGinley) and his queen, Elizabeth (Victoria Worsley)

dent young Posa of Alex Hardy, professedly a citizen of the world, a lover of all mankind, who lists the monarch's errors and touches his wintry heart with the hopes of spring. Maybe Tim Carroll's production goes a little too far in allowing Posa to bound up to the royal table and lean over the royal papers, but the notion of freedom bursting through formality is characteristic of this exciting scene.

Regrettably, from this point on, the way leads inexorably downhill. The charge for those explosions of passions is romantic love. Don Carlos (Piers Gibson) longs for his father's second wife (Victoria Worsley) but is loved by the Princess of Eboli (Tamsin Greig) who in turn becomes the mistress of the king. Somewhere in the north the Netherlands are

poised to revolt, and Posa hopes Carlos will be their champion; yet he and Schiller between them mix up these matters of state with secret love-letters, dangerous meetings between prince and queen, silly trickery of double-and-triple bluff. Credibility of character diminishes to zero until Philip reappears to give some coherence to the final scenes.

Schiller's intentions remain opaque. Does he recognize Posa's folly in imagining a saviour in the reckless Carlos? Carroll's production cannot solve these matters, and after the vigour of the first half his direction seems to run out of ideas. Gibson's voice is insufficiently varied to make one greatly care for the misfortune of Carlos, and the blank-verse translation of Peter Oswald, apparently faithful to the German, is almost empty of

the metaphors that in Shakespeare light up a scene and colour a character.

Animation must be achieved by other means, by face and voice and movements dictated by impulses of the heart. Greig's Eboli manages this particularly well, with an enchanting tilt of her head, agitated steps across the stage and a soliloquy where her changing voice shows the rapid movement of her thoughts. She has the further advantage of looking as if she had just stepped out of an El Greco painting.

Schiller's Philip is a fascinating, complex, tormented character, a boyman who briefly meets his own humanity. But the altogether less interesting love tangle is likely to keep the play out of our own national repertoire.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Scots' new work is of great import

DANCE

In less than two years as artistic director of Scottish Ballet, Galina Samoylova has made several rewarding additions to the repertoire. Above all, she can be proud of acquiring two ballets by Jiri Kylian (Czechoslovakian by birth), long-regarded as one of the best choreographers in Europe but almost ignored in Britain.

Forgotten Land, mounted last August, was a big hit when it was given at the Aids gala in London soon after. Now the company, at the Royal Theatre, Glasgow, has added an equally fine work in more lyrical mood: *Overgrown Path*. It is set to the first ten sections of Janáček's piano suite of that name, sensitively played by Genevieve McNaught.

The music reflects a lot of sadness in the composer's life when he wrote it in 1901, and the choreography hints repeatedly at loss and sad memories. But it presents this theme in many guises, always allusive and delicate, but changing emphasis all the time.

The inventiveness of the dances is amazing. For instance, one episode for four women (in the section Janáček called "They chattered like swallows") has enough originality and evocative imagery to serve most choreographers for a full ballet, in the way a leg repeatedly breaks out of a grouping, arms give way suddenly at the elbow, bodies turn towards each other.

And this is only one of many dances equally expressive, in which meeting and parting, reaching out and waiting, are among recurring images. One dance for three men ("Come with us") is almost jolly, showing clearly the elements of folk dance and classical ballet on which Kylian builds much of his choreography. But mostly the raw material is completely digested into a flowing, meaningful continuum distinctively his own style.

Each of the 12 dancers is at

some point individually prominent, and all take their opportunities so well that it would be unfair to pick some out for praise. In any case it is the excellence of their playing as an ensemble that chiefly impresses.

The simple costumes and setting by Walter Nobbe and the atmospheric lighting by Joop Caboot play, as always, a significant part in the success of this ballet. It is dedicated to Antony Tudor: a worthy tribute to another choreographer who pioneered the way Kylian now follows, of using dance to reveal the human heart.

Kylian's own company, Netherlands Dance Theatre, is coming to Bradford in December; meanwhile this work can be seen on Scottish Ballet's autumn tour as part of a first-rate triple-bill. In *Brief*, Amanda Miller, a young American choreographer who has worked mainly in Europe, builds a fascinating structure of modern classicism on a set of Bach canons recorded on period instruments. Her manner is influenced by William Forsythe (which is no bad thing), but the tone here is cool, deceptively casual.

Balanchine's Gershwin ballet *Who Cares?* ends the evening exuberantly. This is the choreographer's tribute to Broadway, a jazzy version of one of his classic display pieces. Roland Price, appearing as a guest, caught the relaxed friendly manner to perfection and danced his big solo with ebullient zest. Yurie Shinohara was the best of his three partners and showed dazzling form in her solo in "Stairway to Paradise". Altogether, this was as entertaining and satisfying a programme of short works as I have seen in a long time from any British company.

JOHN PERCIVAL

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Glitterati versus literati

Many wondered if Tina Brown would trash a national treasure. "This is the only magazine where the practice of journalism is considered an art... A whole community sees this appointment as an act of cultural vandalism. The tradition of The New Yorker is not one a British editor can understand. This is a blow to the culture..."

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Party pieces with bite

Frances Bissell, the Times cook, on cool, light ways with oxtail, lamb and chicken



LAST week I described some recipes for casual, light food, suitable for any time of the day. This week, with an eye to the forthcoming bank holiday, I have thought about some more substantial dishes, food that can be served as a main course at a sit-down meal, or as a centerpiece for a garden party or buffet. I have rather neglected meat dishes in the past few weeks, but there is no reason why it cannot be cool, light and refreshing. Even a dish as substantial as oxtail and lentils can be turned into something suitable for summer dining.

I love the component parts that make up oxtail, and in the jellied version the prunes are important, with their contrasting colour and note of sharp sweetness.

Some of the dishes make cool starters but can be adapted to make substantial main courses, as I have suggested with the chicken liver salad. Cold lamb, especially when still pink and juicy, takes on a Moroccan feel when served with couscous and a yoghurt and cucumber sauce. Perhaps also make a chilli-hot sauce, and serve some cold ratatouille with the lamb and couscous. Different kinds of melon can be scooped out of the shell into balls, and put in a large glass bowl with a mint and honey syrup for a refreshing and easy pudding. To start with, serve a simple hors-d'oeuvre of quartered hard-boiled eggs and tomatoes, radishes and coarse salt, bowls of black and green olives, toasted almonds and pistachios, trimmed spring onions and carrot sticks.

A roast of English free-range veal also makes a marvellous cold dish the next day. *Vitello tonnato* is simply thin slices of veal layered on a platter, and covered with a sauce made of tuna fish (which can be canned), anchovies, olive oil, lemon juice and egg yolks, processed together until smooth and shiny, like mayonnaise. It is equally good made with cold, cooked salmon. Use about 4oz/110g tuna for each pound or so of sliced veal. Chopped capers are usually scattered over the dish, which is even better if the veal kidneys have been included with the roast. A freshly poached chicken, sliced on to a platter, can be treated in the same way, but I think the following chicken recipe is even better.

Jellied oxtail and lentils
(serves 8)
4 sheets of gelatine
1½lb/680g freshly poached free-range chicken off the bone
8 thin leeks, cooked and split lengthways
12 prunes, soaked
1pt/570ml well-flavoured chicken stock

Break up the gelatine, and soak it in a small amount of water. Cut the chicken into long strips, and layer with the leeks in a wet loaf tin, 2lb/1kg size, with a line of prunes

down the middle. Strain the gelatine, and put it in a bowl. Boil ½pt/70ml chicken stock, and pour it over the gelatine. Stir until it has dissolved, and then stir in the rest of the stock. Pour carefully over the chicken and leeks. Allow to cool, and then refrigerate until set. Turn out on to a platter, slice and serve.

Chicken liver and vegetable salad
(serves 4-6)
1lb/455g chicken livers, free-range if you can get them
1tbsp sunflower or peanut oil
3 carrots
1 kohlrabi
3 courgettes
salad greens
endive
lollo rosso
oakleaf
vinaigrette
raspberry or balsamic vinegar
walnut oil
salt, pepper

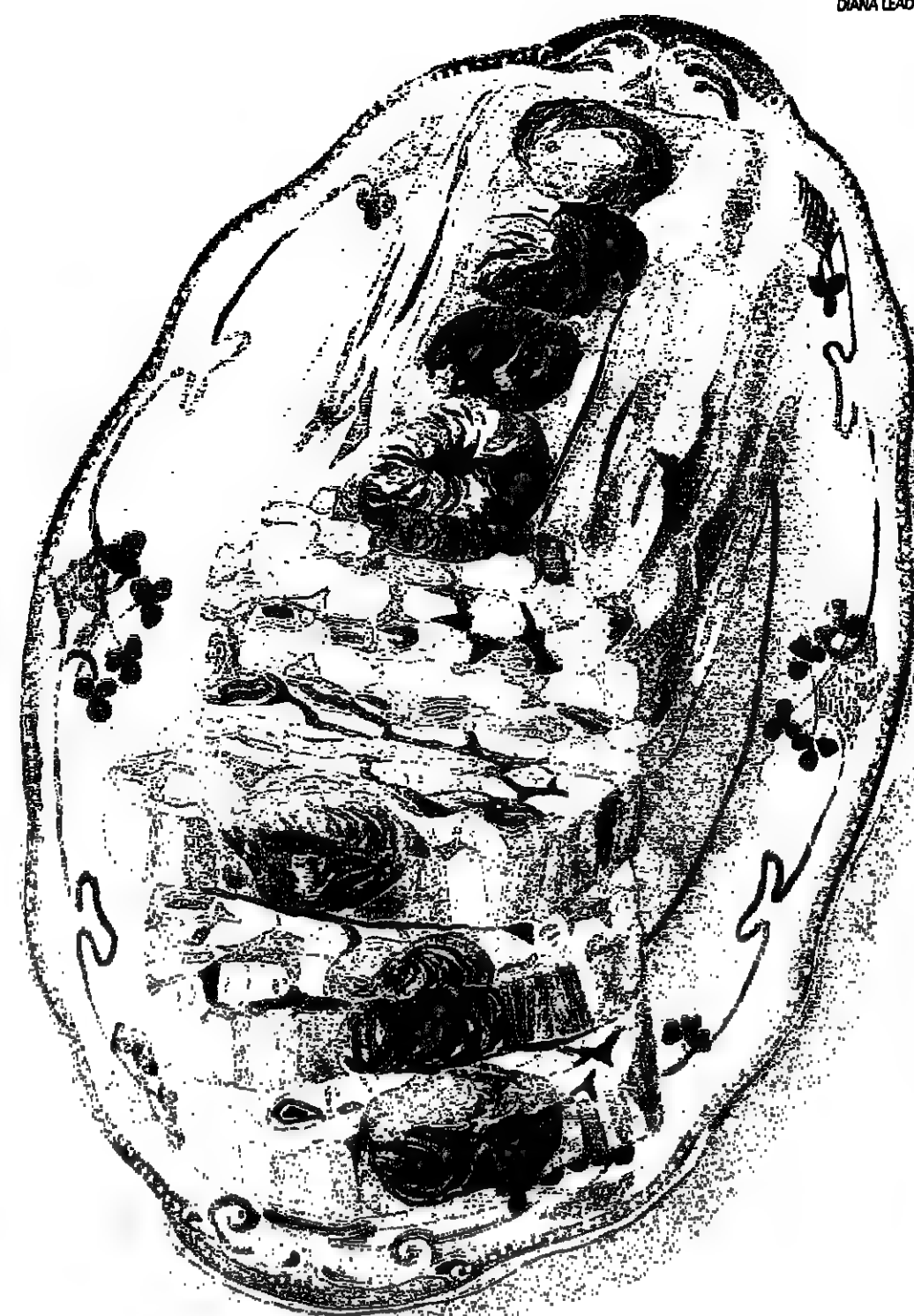
Trim and wipe the chicken livers, and remove any piping and discoloured parts. Heat the oil, or use a non-stick pan, and fry the chicken livers until just rosy-pink inside. Remove from the pan, and put to one side. Peel and slice the vegetables as appropriate. Kohl rabi can be quite tough and should be cut in thinner slices than the courgettes, which cook quickly.

For a decorative effect, 1 sometimes use a canelling knife down the length of the courgette and carrot so that when sliced a flower effect is achieved. Blanch the vegetables until just tender, drain and refresh under cold water to prevent them cooking further. Arrange the salad leaves on a platter, or in a bowl, and pile the livers and vegetables on top. Reheat the pan in which you cooked the livers, and deglaze it with two to three tablespoons vinegar. I have suggested sweet ones, which go well with liver.

Remove from the heat, add the walnut oil, about six tablespoons, and a little salt and pepper. Pour the hot dressing over the salad and serve. This is very good with a freshly made rice salad flecked with lots of herbs.

Lamb and couscous salad and cucumber and melon salad
(serves 8)
1½-2lb/680-900g trimmed neck fillet of lamb
olive oil
fresh thyme
freshly ground black pepper
sea salt

Make a marinade with a couple of tablespoons of fruity olive oil flavoured with thyme, pepper and salt crushed together in a mortar and pestle. If you like, some garlic. Paint this on the lamb, and leave it for an hour or so before cooking. Place on a rack in a roasting tin, and roast in a pre-heated oven at 200°C/400°F, gas mark 6 for 12 to 15 minutes, remove from the oven, and allow the meat to rest for 15 to 20



minutes before slicing, which will produce uniformly rosy slices. Alternatively, the meat can be barbecued or grilled, or indeed the equivalent amount can be sliced from a leftover leg of lamb. Once sliced and brushed with a little more of the marinade, arrange on a platter of couscous salad and serve with the fresh, crisp cucumber and melon salad.

Couscous salad
(serves 8)
½lb/340g uncooked couscous
warm water
extra virgin olive oil
lemon juice
salt
freshly ground black pepper
chopped fresh mint
chopped fresh coriander

Moisten the couscous with about ½pt/140ml water, and let it stand for a few minutes. Use two forks or your fingers to break up the lumps of couscous. Add more water, and allow to stand, breaking up the lumps again. The "grains" should be tender but not wet when ready to add the dressing, which is simply the seasoning and herbs, added to taste. A variety of optional extras can be added: stoned chopped olives, spring onions trimmed and sliced, toasted pine nuts or almonds, raisins or chopped dried apricots, and peeled, chopped tomatoes. This, like all salads, is best served freshly made, but if you do have to prepare it in advance and refrigerate, let it come back to room temperature before serving.

Cucumber and melon salad
(serves 8)
2 cucumbers
1 large wedge of sweet melon, diced
4oz/110g thick plain yoghurt
2tbsp fresh coriander leaves, finely chopped
2tbsp fresh mint, finely chopped
1tbsp capers, drained and chopped
1tbsp green olives, chopped
salt, pepper to taste

Cut the cucumbers in half, and discard the seeds. Roughly chop or grate the flesh, and mix with the melon and the rest of the ingredients. Leave for an hour or so for the flavours to develop.

Steak, bread and tomato salad
(serves 4-6)
6 thick slices of good quality bread
1lb/455g skirt or rump steak
1lb/455g ripe tomatoes
1 mild sweet onion
1 celery stalk
fresh lovage (optional) or fresh basil or dill
extra virgin olive oil
sherry vinegar
seasoning

Grill or toast the bread lightly on both sides, and tear it into irregular pieces. Put in a large bowl. Grill or pan-fry the steak until done to your liking, and rest it for 15 minutes before carving into thin slices. Pile these on top of the bread, including the juices. If you wish, peel and seed the tomatoes before chopping them and adding to the bowl. Peel and thinly slice the onion, trim and slice

the celery, and tear up the herbs. Add oil, vinegar and seasoning, and mix all together with your hands or large forks. Allow to stand at least 20 minutes, preferably an hour, to let the flavours blend.

Jellied oxtail and lentils
(serves 6-8)
2 oxtails
1 celery stalk top
1 small onion
slices of fresh ginger
1 bay leaf, 1 sprig of thyme
blade of mace
6 cloves
1tbsp black peppercorns
6oz/170g green or Puy lentils

This is best made a day or two in advance so that the dish can be degreased. Have the oxtails chopped, and brown them all over in a heavy frying-pan. Transfer them to a large stockpot with the seasonings. Cover with water, and bring to the boil. Skim the surface, partially cover, and simmer until the meat is beginning to come away from the bones and put to one side. Cook the lentils until just tender but not soft. Taste the liquid and check for seasoning. It may need a little salt at this stage. Layer the meat and lentils in a wet 2lb/1kg loaf tin, and pour on the liquid. When cool, refrigerate until set. To serve, turn out and slice.

Get in the holiday mood

Jane MacQuitty selects wines for all weathers for next weekend's break

Rain or shine, we will all need wine to wash down next weekend's bank holiday. A good place to start your holiday wine hunt is Marks & Spencer, whose recently launched Wine-makers of the World selection is one of the best moves that Chris Murphy and his wine-buying team have made in a long time.

Admittedly, not all of the M&S seven winemakers' wines are worth buying and as usual, prices at this supermarket are on the high side. But at least three of these wines demonstrate the best that winemaker, soil and climate can do in their part of the world.

Focusing on a winemaker, instead of a region or variety, just as M&S has done in its new German wine range, is a clever idea and, so far, a unique one on supermarket shelves. Quite rightly Georges Duboeuf, the king of Beaujolais but now becoming well known for the excellence of his other French wines, is featured here with his '91 Beaujolais Villages at £4.99. Duboeuf's signature is vibrant fruit-laden wines with pretty flower labels whose gulpability makes them an especially good buy. M&S also stocks his vin de table duo — the delicious Sélection Rouge and the slightly less appealing Sélection Blanc — for a knockdown £2.99.

Another good M&S buy within the winemakers' range is Christian Moueix's soft, plummy '89 Merlot from Bordeaux (£4.99), whose smoky, spicy finish is typical of right-bank wines.

Look out too for Carlos Falco's impressive white '90 Marques de Grillon Rueda (£5.99), whose gorgeous, oaky, flowery fruit, made from Spain's verdejo grape, fermented and left on its yeasty sediment in French Nevers oak, is even powerful enough to cope with barbecue fare.

Other full-flavoured and good value white wines worth tracking down for bank holiday barbecues include Davison's '90 Wyndham Estate Verdelho, down from £5.79 to £4.99, with only 10.5 per cent alcohol but blessed with so much rich, fragrant oaky fruit and flavour that you would never know.

Equally buttery and oak influenced is the spectacular '91 Avonmore Le Chardon Chardonnay (Waitrose, £4.99), one of the stars at the big South African wine tasting held earlier this year. Layers of green-gold, intense aromatic chardonnay fruit grown in the Cape's more arid Somerset West district are Avonmore's hallmark.

If refreshing, more streamlined white wines are your idea of the ideal August bottle, perfect for knocking back on the beach or by the swimming pool, try the '91 Rowan Brook Sauvignon from Chile, whose elegant, zesty, gooseberry fruit makes it one of South America's best (Asda £2.99, The Victoria Wine Company £3.79).

White wines are always the preferred bottle at summer picnics and parties. But red wines go down well at these occasions too, if you can find good ones. Two pink wines now in the high street are the extraordinarily delicious

Best buys

● Georges du Boeuf, Sélection Rouge & Blanc
Marks & Spencer £2.99
● Merlot Rosé, Domaine de Lalande
Waitrose £2.99
● '91 Domaine de la Taille Merlot Rosé
Sainsbury's £3.85
● 1986 Léon Red
Asda £2.69
● 1990 Douro Casanova Red
Victoria Wine £2.99

and ridiculously cheap Merlot rosé Domaine de Lalande (Waitrose, £2.99), and the equally moreish but slightly more expensive '91 Domaine de la Taille Merlot Rosé (Sainsbury's, £3.85).

The cheaper pink, a Vin de Pays de l'Aude, has an attractive, pinky orange colour leading on to a delicious, soft, plummy palate. Tuilerie, a Vin de Pays d'Oc, is a deeper pink, and its full, fresh, grassy, herbaceous fruit stems from long maceration and Hugh Ryan's expertise with the grape.

Chilled red wines make great summer drinks yet few people try them, which is a pity because they are perfect for beach and barbecue. Beaujolais is the obvious choice, and the under-estimated and reasonably priced '91 vintage is worth homing in on. Sainsbury's stocks the '91 Fleurie La Madone, from the Collier des Samsons co-operative, whose vivacious, raspberry fruit is easily worth its £5.95 tag. A cheaper and more unusual alternative is the '91 J. Lohr Wildflower Gamay, from Monterey (Oodins £4.49), whose vivid, crimson purple colour and bright, juicy fruit I enjoyed.

Spicier summer fare, whether it is barbecued sausages spiked with a chilli sauce, or an extra strong version of coronation chicken, needs a more powerful red to accompany it. Try the stylish 1990



Picnic pleasure: chilled reds in the outdoors

Chinon Les Garous, with its musky, smoky, raspberry fruit (Majestic Wine Warehouse £4.99), a good example of the Loire's Cabernet Franc grape.

For a cheap and cheerful holiday red, try Asda's 1986 Léon from Spain, whose hefty, sandalwood scented fruit is a snip at £2.69. Just 30p more brings you Portugal's 1990 Douro Cismetra, whose inky, juicy fruit costs £2.99 from Victoria Wine.

Finally, do not forget to wash down the last of the soft summer fruits with a glass of the splendid, sweet, peachy-pineapple '86 Clos Saint-Georges, Graves Supérieures, rather better value at £3.99 than the £6.29 asked for the 1990 vintage at Sainsbury.

Courses with a combination that works

ENTERTAINING AT HOME

EMMA BRIDGEWATER AND MATTHEW RICE



Keen kitchen hands: Matthew and Emma, with their children Elizabeth, three, and Kitty, 18 months

Matthew: I do most of the cooking. My mother's a very keen cook and she taught me. Before I met Emma I used to entertain even more than we do now — one does before one's married, don't you think? Then, when we got together, I'm afraid I rather usurped her role. Emma's the pudding person really.

I don't make endless soufflés — it's all proper stuff. I've got quite a nice greenhouse here in London, full of things like basil, aubergines, tomatoes, chillies and courgettes. We have chickens, too.

We entertain about once every week to ten days. We usually have ten people, though my inclination is to knock it up to 16. Emma prefers to keep things smaller. We eat in our kitchen — the kitchen and dining-room are all one long room — and about four times a year have a big party.

Our entertaining is relatively informal. I always make a lot of food and was much inspired by a chum who, when holidaying in Italy with his wife once, had 14 courses for dinner. I had a wonderful evening a couple of years ago with 16 courses. Ordeal by food.

We have pasta, rice, a lot of meat and, in autumn and winter, ducks and geese. Usually we shoot them, but often I'll get up at 4.30am and go to Smithfield market where you can buy them for practically nothing. When Kitty, our younger child, was christened, I bought four sheep from Smithfield. We did them like the Argentinians do them, on sticks, with two crosses, over a fire and kept pouring oil, wine and garlic over them. There were nearly a hundred guests and they wolfed them down.

I like to combine my vegetables with something else: carrots with ginger and sugar perhaps; or potatoes with garlic and rosemary. I'm particularly keen on peppers and aubergines cooked on top of the Aga so that they're slightly burnt. I'm also very fond of Cornish greens and stuff like brussels and brussels.

The only trouble is, I get sleepy late at night and am inclined to say I'll skip the pudding and go to sleep instead.

Emma: I'm a great one for making sure there's chocolate around and, of course, coffee. Matthew would never bother —

he's very likely to cook some quite good vegetables and leave them somewhere, on the draining board perhaps. I like to make sure it's all there. I'll remind him that he cooked some nice little cauliflower dish and try to find out what he's done with it.

Like everyone else, we've got a gang of people we see a lot of. Matthew used to have dinner parties two or three times a week — he does cook very well, he's inspired in a slapdash sort of way — but suddenly I felt one couldn't go on subjecting one's friends to quite such a ramshackle routine. We need a mixture of Matthew's

inspiration and my rudimentary attention to detail, so that people get a whole dinner.

There was one gruesome evening where they got a goat curry and nothing else, not a single solitary grain of rice to go with it nor anything before or after. At that point Matthew sank pretty low in my estimation. It just wasn't sufficient, just wasn't good enough. They probably had to bring their own wine as well. So I said, OK, we're going to entertain less often, do it better and get beyond that dreary "red or white?" question and ask people, when they arrive, if they'd like some of the hard

stuff as well — vodka usually. It never bothers us if people don't ask us back. We find that with some people we take it in turns religiously and then there are others who you never, ever go to dinner with.

Living somewhere sociable, like Fulham, I'm aware that it's mad not to be sociable. We won't always live in London and there will always be this huge circle of people, so we try to make the most of it.

Matthew Rice's nice little cauliflower dish
two clean-looking cauliflowers
three or four cloves of garlic
2tbsp olive oil
most of a tube or can of tomato purée
lots of Parmesan
ten Carrs water biscuits

Break cauliflower into florets, blanch for three minutes or until soft. Fry the garlic in the olive oil and do not use a garlic crusher because it will taste acidic and nasty — just peel and cut up small. When the garlic is soft, but before it is brown and burnt, add the cauliflower, Parmesan, tomato purée and the water biscuits which have been crushed up small with a rolling pin. Keep stirring, making sure the cauliflower isn't broken up, adding more olive oil, a little red wine, salt and roughly crushed black pepper.

Interview by Paddy Burt
● Emma Bridgewater, china designer, is famous for her spongeware. She and her husband, designer and writer Matthew Rice, live and work in Fulham. Matthew's book, *The Village Buildings of Britain*, will be published in paperback in October by Little Brown (£12.99).



GREAT CLASSICS
SOUPE AU PISTOU

Here is a summer soup that is almost a meal in itself, although a more refined version with fewer dried beans can be made if you prefer. Young French beans or sliced runner beans, finger-sized courgettes and carrot trimmings or very young, slim carrots are also added. Small purple-pink navets or turnips, tiny artichokes, new potatoes, indeed anything that reminds you of a Provencal vegetable garden can go into the soup. But the main ingredient is fresh basil. Pounded with oil and garlic, this is stirred into the soup just before serving so that the fragrant oils do not evaporate. I use water not stock for the soup, for the dried beans produce a liquid almost as well-flavoured as a stock. However, I am not sure that this soup would be the answer for those who ask me what to eat as vegetarians in France. It would not be possible to guarantee that the chef had not made the soup with a *fond de volaille*.

Soak the dried beans for several hours in cold water.

½lb/230g dried haricot or cannellini beans, soaked
½lb/230g dried fagioli beans, soaked
several parsley stalks
sprig of savoury (optional)
1 bay leaf
6oz/170g baby carrots
6oz/170g French beans or runner beans

2 small navets
½lb/230 courgettes
½lb/230g broad beans and peas (optional)
2 or 3 ripe tomatoes, skinned and seeded
½tsp coarse sea salt
a good handful of fresh basil leaves
2 or 3 garlic cloves, peeled and roughly chopped
3 or 4tbsp extra virgin olive oil

Put the soaked beans in a large saucepan with 4pt/2.3l of cold water and the herbs. Bring to the boil, partially cover, and simmer for about one hour. Meanwhile, prepare the vegetables, topping and tailing, peeling and slicing and shelling, as appropriate. If using potatoes and/or artichokes, add them first, simmering with the beans for about 15 to 20 minutes before adding the carrots and turnips, and then about five to ten minutes later, the beans and the courgettes. Roughly chop the tomato, and add this to the soup. While the vegetables finish cooking, make the *pistou* in a mortar. Put the salt in first, and then the torn-up basil leaves and garlic. Crush to a paste, and then gradually add the oil. When all is well mixed, stir into the steamingureen of soup. For an even more substantial version of this soup, pasta can be added to the pot, at about the same time as you add the carrots.

F.B.

Butcher with a beef about good meat

Over the counter:

Fiona Beckett

investigates a

traditional

butcher's shop

In the lush green meadows bordering the river Dart at Totnes, south Devon, graze 21 bullocks belonging to David Goss of A.W. Luscombe, butchers to the town since 1788.

Each evening Mr Goss checks his herd, the black and white Hereford crosses ringed with the rich chestnut brown of the local steers. He greets them affectionately, pushing them away if they get too boisterous in their rush to poke their noses in the bag of feed he has brought them. Then, coolly and without sentimentality, he decides which is ready to go to the slaughterhouse.

Mr Goss is a traditional butcher, with 30 years' experience in the business. At the small shop in Fore Street, Totnes, which he inherited from the Luscombe family four years ago, whole carcasses hang from a row of hooks at the back of the shop, where each customer's meat is cut to order.

Around the butcher's block in the centre of the shop, Mr Goss and his two assistants, Steve (a comparative newcomer, with just 20 years under his belt) and young Martin (three years in the business) are deftly slicing, boning and trimming.

Twice a week Mr Goss goes to market at Exeter and Newton Abbot, where he is one of the few remaining butchers to buy live on the hoof. He kept his own pigs for 25 years, but the field he rented was sold for development. He regrets the loss. Modern pigs, he says, are much too lean. "Nowadays they restrict them to 3-4lb of feed a day. I used to give mine 6-7lb, whatever they wanted. Some pigs eat more than others."

Mr Goss does not believe in any of this "new-fangled nonsense" about lean meat. "Fat is what gives meat its taste," he says. "We notice in the shop that people who like a bit of fat are out and about more than the ones who watch their weight."

"There's one old girl who comes in every Friday and buys three lamb chops and four pork chops, one chop for each day of the week. She likes plenty of fat on them and we haven't seen her since a Friday, even though she is well into her eighties."

Mr Goss was only 11 years old when he first worked for Luscombe's, as a Saturday boy. "I



Hooked on the fat of the land: David Goss is a traditional West Country butcher who does not believe in the "new-fangled nonsense" about lean meat. "Fat is what gives meat its taste," he says

learnt to make a few sausages and did the deliveries on my bike," he says. When he left school at 15 he went into the butcher's business. "I left school at the end of July, had a week's holiday and that was it. It's not easy in the shop to take time off. If you're missing for a day people ask, 'Where were you yesterday?'"

Most of the regular customers, who include Joyce Molyneux, the chef at the famous Carved Angel restaurant in Dartmouth, have been coming to Luscombe's for years. There's a routine exchange of friendly banter. ("My children are getting married to your chops." "Do we get invited to the wedding?")

Each week, depending on the season, Luscombe's sells the equivalent of a couple of bullocks, 15-20

lamb and about half a dozen pigs. Mr Goss still finds it hard to predict exactly what sort of meat there will be a run on. "Some days they're all wanting chicken, another day we'll have 20 left," he says. He is inclined to blame the media. "It's all in these women's books. It depends what recipe they've got on," he says.

All the meat is hung in the old-fashioned way, the lamb meekly tender, the dark south Devon beef marbled with rich, creamy yellow fat. The colour is regarded with suspicion by his younger customers, who are used to fat-free vermillion supermarket meat. "The older people take no notice at all," Mr Goss says.

At the back of the shop is an old-fashioned "pickle pot" where ox

tongue, belly of pork and brisket are salted for up to a fortnight. At this time of year, they're popular for cold cuts in winter the regular customers like their beef boiled up with a few carrots.

Luscombe's also makes its own hog's pudding, a traditional West Country combination of pork, oatmeal and seasoning, not unlike a mild haggis. The locals love it. "We had one customer going out to India who took out 40lb frozen with him," Mr Goss recalls. "He said he couldn't go for three years without his hog's pudding."

Mr Goss makes no claim to understand the heated debates on "mad cow disease" (bovine spongiform encephalitis), organic farming and the ethics of meat-

eating that beset his business. His meat, he says, is as naturally reared as any; his cattle out to pasture in all but the most inclement weather. "Because I go to market I know exactly where the cattle come from and can find out how they have been fed," he says.

What matters to Mr Goss is killing his animals as humanely as possible. "If they go to the slaughterhouse nice and quiet they die all right. If they get worked up they don't make such good meat. I stick to British beef. Some of these foreign breeds are a bit wild when you come to move them."

Despite the fact that his meat is raised in the traditional way, prices compare favourably with supermarket meat. In many cases they

are cheaper. Mr Goss's chandler's cut — a cut-price steak sliced from the top of the rump — costs £2.69 a pound, which is cheaper than most supermarket frying steaks. Lamb chops, cut to order, are £2.85.

It concerns him that a new generation of shoppers is missing out on a good thing. "The youngsters don't seem to want joints," he complains. "It's all barbecues and stir-fries. To be honest, I've never had anything barbecued and I don't want it. Give me a good roast dinner any day."

Luscombe's kidneys with juniper, mustard and cream
(serves 4)
8 lamb kidneys
8 juniper berries

4 tsp salt
freshly ground black pepper
1oz/25g butter
1 tsp Dijon mustard
4 pt/150ml double cream

Skin and halve the kidneys and snip out the inner cores. Slice each half in two, horizontally. Pound the juniper berries with the salt in a mortar and sprinkle over the kidneys, with a generous twist of the pepper mill. Melt the butter in a pan and sauté the kidneys gently for about four minutes. Add the mustard and the cream. Increase the heat and bubble the sauce until it thickens. Serve immediately.

● Recipe from the Carved Angel Cookery Book (Grafton, £6.99)

Anglo-Norman conquest

A group of French chef-patrons is offering a lucky British couple three dinners a year — for ten years



IMAGINE winning a prize that entitles you to three dinners a year for two people, not for a year, or two years, but for ten years. Until 2003 you can enjoy yourself in one of ten restaurants tucked away in a little-known part of France, just 40 minutes from the Normandy port of Caen.

Les Bonnes Tables de la Suisse Normande, a group of chef-patrons, last month announced a competition open only to British visitors, for which they have donated this generous prize. I was with them to inaugurate the contest, and to see the correct answers handed over to a local official who sealed and signed the envelope containing them. This will not be opened until the end of February 1993, when the winning entry will be announced.

The winner and guest will also be invited to the third annual gala meal of the association, which should be quite an occasion. About 300 people attended last year's luncheon, which began at midday and continued until late at night, feasting off such dishes as *opéra de foie gras aux pommes*, *le homard et ses petits légumes au vinaigre de xeres*, and *la jalouse de veau aux morilles avec un jus*.

simple au goût de cerfueil. Les fromages du terroir et le trou normand in the form of a granité de pommes au Calvados were an essential part of the meal, as indeed they were at most of the meals I ate during my brief visit.

The competition could not be easier. The chefs between them have devised a dish which uses local produce, and each of them has this dish on the menu in his restaurant. All you have to do, after you have eaten, is to fill in an entry form, and list all the ingredients in the dish. There are also three questions to be answered about certain Normandy products.

Even if there were not such a splendid competition going on from now until February, la Suisse Normande is worth a detour. It is rural and extremely peaceful, with very few main roads and no high speed train services from Paris. The countryside is beautiful, with small towns and villages set on the banks of the numerous rivers which criss-cross the area. And the food in these restaurants is quite simply the best. The chefs are proud of their local traditions and produce; the

land is fertile, and what it produces is rich and full of flavour, particularly its unpasteurised cheeses and crêpe fraîche, its poultry and its freshwater fish. Orchard fruits are important, not just for cider and Calvados but for poisse and poire.

Caen and the fishing boats are not far away, and early in the morning I would hear the gravel on my hotel drive crunch as the chef drove off to the market, coming back with fine crabs, langoustines, turbot and monkfish.

What is particularly appealing about this group of chefs is that they have a common aim to achieve higher and higher standards, and so to put the cooking of Suisse Normande on the gastronomic map, but they go about it in their own individual establishment. There is the deceptively quiet M. Collas at the Hôtel de la Poste in Falaise; his pilot's licence enabled him to have a bird's-eye view of the beautiful countryside one day. Jean Pierre Guillaud at Le Lion Vert has one of the most beautifully situated restaurants, on the

banks of the river Orne in Putanges. Also in Falaise are Gilbert Costi's La Fine Fourchette, and L'Ataché where Alain Haxain cooks light, fresh flavours often using wild herbs and flowers from the meadows. Michel Choplin cooks in the elegant surroundings of the Moulin du Vey in Clécy, which is owned by his equally elegant mother-in-law, Mme Leduc, or la Grande Dame, as we came to call her.

Pont d'Erambourg, on the confluence of two small rivers, is where you will find Jacques Bertain at Le Poisson-Vivant. Try his *aumonière de coquilles St Jacques*, which he serves with a richly flavoured crab coulis. Alain Rivière at the Hôtel du Commerce in Pont d'Oulilly cooks in classical style.

Nearby in the commune of St Christophe, Gilles and Françoise Lecœur run the Auberge St Christophe, a charming inn covered in virginia creeper. Many of the restaurants have rooms and are part of the Logis de France group, which is always a recommendation for a good night's sleep.

Philippe Auvray and his wife at Le Lion d'Or in Ecouche were our last stop before we took the train from Argentan to Paris, and there we tried some of his feather-light profiteroles of langoustines. He wanted to give us one of the dishes which all the chefs have on their menu Normand, but because of the blockade, the salmon had not arrived.

The menu included *nonette de saumon au beurre de cidre*, *pintrade aux saveurs de la Suisse Normande*, Normandy cheeses — Livarot, Camembert and Pont l'Évêque — and a *tarte aux pommes*.

The president of this genial group is Patrice Malgouy who, with his wife Catherine front of house, is chef patron at Le Cerf (18 rue du Chêne, Conde sur Noireau; 010 33 31 69 40 55, fax 010 33 31 69 78 29). This is probably the best starting point for information about the competition. Incidentally, there are no hidden clues in anything you have just read, nor will there be in the cookery column I plan to write on Normandy food in September.

FRANCES BISSELL

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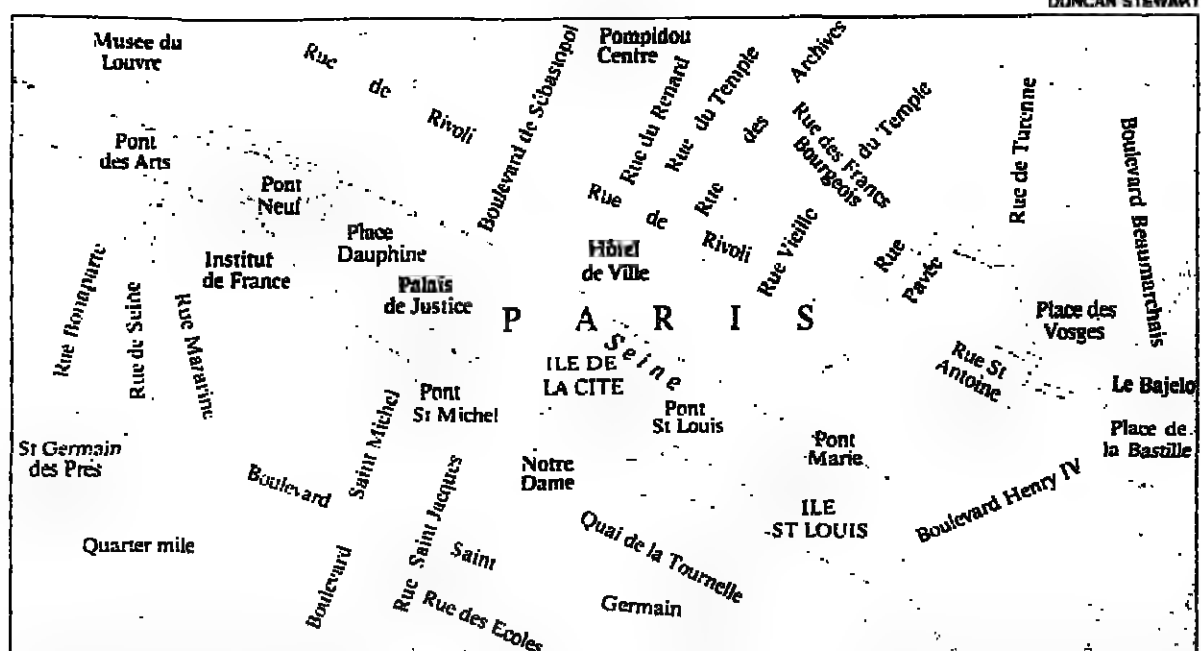
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KENWOOD



Freshly caught: chefs in la Suisse Normande always make the most of the local fish



YOU may think that taking a whole afternoon to walk two miles is something of an under-achievement. But this is not a country hike, it is an afternoon's amble around the oldest parts of Paris. If you are doing it in the summer the weather is bound to be hot and you will need lots of resuscitation at local bars.

Start by taking the Métro to St Germain-des-Près and look for Les Deux Magots café as you come out of the entrance. The celebrated haunt of Jean-Paul Sartre, Verlaine, Rimbaud and Mallarmé is now a hang-out for artists, publishers and journalists. This is the moment to look at everyone else and hope they are looking at you. 100. *Le regard* is an art form in St Germain and if you find it difficult, invest in a pair of sunglasses.

On down the rue de Seine to the river, passing the Institut de France, with its beautiful, curving, domed 17th-century facade, in which the great minds of French civilisation pontificate on the corruption of the French language and the abominations of such words as *le hamburger*.

Saunter across the pedestrian bridge to the right bank and look at the *bouquinistes* selling tiny postcards. If you are feeling energetic you can run to the end of the Musée de Louvre and look at the glass Pyramid (surrounded by scaffolding at the moment). If you

WHERE TO WALK

are feeling lazy you can forget the walk and take a *bateau mouche* up the river. The Ile de la Cité is your next stop. The boat-shaped island was inhabited in about 200BC by the Celtic Parisii tribe who founded the primitive settlement that represents the beginning of what is now Paris. The Pont Neuf is the oldest bridge across the river Seine, built in 1587. Then it was the home of dentists, entertainers and watchmakers, now it is the home of a rather mediocre equestrian statue of Henri IV. Down river you can see the Monnaie (Mint), the Tuileries gardens and the Eiffel tower in the distance.

Walk through the place Dauphine to the Palais de Justice, imbibing a glass of wine at the Taverne Henri IV on the way. The houses are long and pale with statues in the facades. Keep going and you will come to the Pont St-Michel, which has the honour of having the first paying portable lavatory in Europe. The St Chapelle is at number 6, and it is worth queuing to see the Gothic stained glass windows.

A few minutes further and you will get your first view of the cathedral of Notre-Dame. In the summer the area in front of the cathedral is packed with tourists and ice-cream vendors. Skirt

around the cathedral and you will see Paris's best roller-skaters practising their high jumps and weaving in and out of stalens of Coke cans. The garden running beside the river is the best place to enjoy the sculptures, rose windows and flying buttresses. The end of the island, once covered in houses before Baron Haussmann's pickaxes got to work, now holds flower and bird markets.

Wander across the Pont St Louis to Paris's second island, the Ile St Louis, which was originally used for grazing cows. Cézanne and Daumier once had studios on the island. Bertillon, the famous ice-cream shop, is also here and the English trifle ice-cream is wonderful.

Now head northeast through the old streets of the Marais to the Bastille, where the new opera house, criticised for looking like a lavatory, is situated. Take the rue de la Roquette for 200 yards and you will find the rue de Lappe and Le Bajejo. Le Bajejo had its heyday during the *belle époque*, when its bar was propped up by the likes of Edith Piaf. The walls are still covered in a cartoon mural of the New York skyline. Most nights Le Bajejo is like any other slightly seedy night-club, but on Sunday afternoons it comes alive with afternoon tea dances, when elderly Parisians take to the floor in real style.

WHAT TO BUY

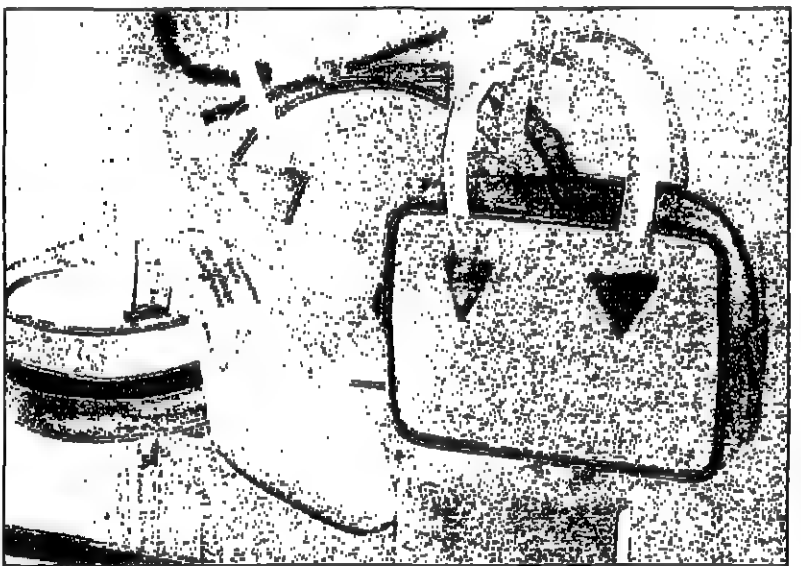
THE sales in Paris are wonderful, and if you are shopping in August you will also catch the autumn collections. Clothes tend to be French, Italian and Japanese, so come in small sizes. St Germain is full of decorative designer shops and has some good bargains in the Bis Bis (gently used) second-hand shops. *Le Moulin à Cinq Pains*, 19 rue Grégoire de Tours, de arrondissement (43 29 73 56), is where designers' 25,000 mistakes and last year's cast-offs go. Chiffon scarves sell at FF200 (£20.80), classic Chanel suits for as little as FF1,000.

On the other side of the river is former Chanel model Inès de la Fressange's new shop, at 14 avenue Montaigne, 5e (47 23 08 94), which has classic blazers and loafers in every hue. Agnès B, 2 rue du Jour, 1er (45 08 56 56) is every Frenchwoman's favourite shop. The clothes are classic but sexy and well-cut, and there are accessories for every occasion starting at FF100.

Gaultier Junior, 7 rue du Jour, 1er (40 28 01 91), and Azedine Alaïa, 7 rue des Francs Bourgeois, 3e (42 77 16 15) are preferred by the *twenty-somethings*. Chic but cheap clothes can be bought in the Marais and Bastille areas, where most of the younger designers have shops.

At the other end of the scale is Forum des Halles, the giant, subterranean shopping centre which is a nightmare of more than 300 bargain stores and tacky snack bars connected by a maze of escalators. If you can face it, you can find almost every type of clothing at bargain prices.

Paris had more than 90 markets at



Shades of Chanel: fashion at former model Inès de la Fressange's shop

the last count, selling everything from outsize bras to stamps, rare birds and even rarer cheeses. The flea markets or *puces*, their derogatory names derived from a seedy bunch of 19th-century hawkers, used to have some wonderful memorabilia, old furniture and second-hand leather coats. Now they are seedier, but it is still worth scouting around.

Second-hand shops have been springing up recently and have some wonderful 1930s clothes. *L'Apache*, 45 rue Vieille du Temple, 4e (42 71 84 27) has mock leopard-skin sunglasses and women's velvet smoking jackets.

Goutte d'Or, the traditional centre of Paris's Arab and African community, has bins of inexpensive clothes and

materials and is a haunt for models and students. At Taï, 2 rue Charles Nodier, 18e (42 55 13 09), you have to fight to reach the racks of clothes but the bargains are amazing. The Saint Pierre market a little further up the street has the best fabrics.

Food is the other great delight and Paris delicatessens are temples of cuisine. Bernard Ganachaud, 154 rue de Menilmontant, 20e (46 36 13 82), bakes at least 40 types of bread using five fruits and ten sorts of nuts and flour. Faubourg-Saint-Honoré in 8e has some of the best offerings. *La Maison du Chocolat* is at number 225 and is a foodies' paradise. Les Caves Taillevent, at 199, has one of Paris's best-stocked cellars.

PARIS

Never mind the springtime — Alice Thomson finds plenty to love in Paris in high summer, ambling away the days off the tourist track, and saving her energies for after dark

Never go to Paris in July or August, as any Francophile will tell you. The summer is for Provence, Brittany or the Alps.

But they are wrong. July and August in Paris are a delight. Most Parisians have fled, so you can cross the road without being mauled by a 2CV. Other tourists politely stay in well-defined areas. Night-clubs want to see you, restaurants need you and there are sales in every shop. The Parisians who stay are less snarky; the pigeons have given up going away. Where spring got its reputation is bewildering.

The weather is the only obstacle to your enjoyment. It is impossible to look chic when sweat is dripping down your armpits. The solution is to meander slowly through the days, avoiding the tourist spots, and save your energy for the nights.

On a Friday evening recently L'Hôtel, the self-consciously bohemian hotel on the left bank, where Oscar Wilde camped out until his death in 1900, still had two rooms vacant. The choice was between the honeymoon suite, with art deco mirrored furniture, a red tasseled dressing table and a white fur rug on the bed, or a dark velvet shoe box. The chequebook dictated the shoe box.

Downstairs the piano was playing, a smattering of elegant Parisians were murmuring over cocktails, and in the hall an American was arguing over the bill. The French manager, relishing an audience, took his time drawing out his answers. Outside the air was warm and reassuring as I wandered down to the Seine, and students were sitting crosslegged around candles on the bridges.

Dining in the summer is relaxed. The waiters are surprisingly charming, and restaurants are filled with middle-aged men and their mistresses (wives having been dispatched to the country with the children). None the less, at Chez Pauline the waiters were horrified when I asked for a salad with my main course — some things remain the same all year.

When I left at midnight I knew I had several more hours before Paris closed for a quick street clean and the next day began. So the next stop was Le Casbah in Bastille, where actors and supermodels throw surprise parties. The interior of Le Casbah looks like a Moorish temple. Cocktails have such enticing names as Fez and Laziza, and the clientele is only slightly less exotic, draped in emerald-green cushions and spice jars.

Somewhat intimidated, I inched my way to the bar, only to have a cocktail thrown over my chest. I couldn't smoke a Gauloise like them and my pout was far too small, but when I got on the dance floor my confidence returned. Parisians can't dance. They can rock and roll, they can tango, but they can't bop. They stand in the middle of the floor, legs firmly planted on the ground, and bounce up and down.

At Les Bains Douches nightclub the female bouncer was ferocious. White Levi's were not good enough and she had clearly never seen a shellsuit. It had to be hotpants, and they had to be black. The manager explained: "We get these rich Texans and their girls in flouncy dresses who turn up in Cadillacs and we just have to say no. It would ruin our image."

Set in a former Turkish baths and completely tiled, it felt like dancing in an empty swimming pool. Adrian from Tooting Bec presided over the music, which was mostly funk, reggae and techno. At five in the morning they were still swaying, hair plastered back, layers of clothes and handbags discarded in the corner. Outside the roads were being washed down. The faint smell of the day's first cigarettes, cheap perfume and a hint of drains mingled with the smell of the bread being baked at the

invisible line and unless you want to buy an ice-cream, it is best to hurry back again before your good humour is lacerated.

Head instead for the suburbs. Neuilly-sur-Seine in the summer is emptied of its rich residents, and the delicatessens are wonderful. As you wander along the leafy boulevards you catch glimpses of faded grandeur behind the iron grilles. Old housekeepers, immaculately dressed, sit in the courtyards and nod as you pass.

Hot, sultry early evenings are for Paris bars, bowls of nuts, wine and olives. Michelin three-star restaurants that are normally booked for months in advance have tables in July and August (if they have not closed). At La Tour d'Argent I arrived early and was shown into an opulent reception room with incongruous lime-green sofas. The doors opened at 8pm and the maître d' ushered me past famous autographs into the lift.

In one corner of the dining room two American teenagers wearing floral print dresses were having dinner with their father and step-mother and refusing to eat anything but steak and lettuce. They glowered at their step-mother and went to the loo at five minute intervals. In another corner a woman was discussing her chicken with the waiter. She didn't want it unless it came from Harrods. "This is Paris, madame," he replied. "But everyone in Europe buys their food in Harrods," she complained.

In a sea of foreigners there were several tables of beaming French families. This famous Paris institution is a cross between a temple and a theatre — the tables part altar, part stage. The courses arrive like acts, perfectly presented and choreographed against the backdrop of sunset over the Ile de la Cité. An extraordinary experience — but no British family would blow £600 on a meal.

The monuments all look better at night. The Eiffel tower loses its garishness and the crowds are hidden by the darkness. Even the Arc de Triomphe seems fresh. Wandering back along the Champs Elysees looking for a taxi, my wallet was stolen. It wasn't dramatic, it wasn't even frightening — the man just swept past me as I gawped at the tacky fast-food joints, and when I looked down my bag was open and my wallet had gone. Within minutes my new-found admiration for Paris in the summer had dwindled and my petty irritations with the French capital returned.

"It is all the fault of the immigrants," said the taxi driver. "They have come here and soiled the country. My daughter is living with a Moroccan. She has had a baby but she hasn't even bothered to get married." The story went on. Standards had dropped and the Parisians were being forced out of their homes. These foreigners knew nothing about wine and even less about women.

In the two years since I last visited Paris the African and

Summer in the city: three ways

Arabic presence has grown substantially. French articles have started blaming everything from rising unemployment to the increase in begging on the flood of immigrants.

But what few French people like to admit is that some of the most interesting parts of Paris are now the preserve of recent immigrants. Modern Paris, chic Paris is no longer white Paris. It is the mélange of cultures that makes up areas such as the Marais, Belleville and the Goutte d'Or.

The Marais, the old Jewish quarter on the west bank, has had a new lease of life. The *felafels* on the rue des Rosiers are now better than in Jerusalem. You queue up at the delicatessens for half an hour

WHERE TO EAT

PARISIANS don't snack, they eat civilised meals, which may sound an expensive indulgence but is often the cheapest and best way to sample their extraordinary array of delicacies. A *croque-monsieur* in a bar can cost twice as much as a three-course lunch in a small bistro. Dinner is usually more expensive, but no waiter will ever hurry a customer, and eating out can be an entire evening's entertainment.

Paris attracts top culinary talent from every region of France, and even if you are not an epicure it is worth eating at one of the legendary Michelin-starred restaurants just for the performance.

When you want something cheaper try the new African, Middle Eastern and Japanese restaurants. The hilly streets of Belleville, near Montmartre, are packed with small Chinese, Armenian and Asian restaurants, and half of Paris seems to migrate here in the evenings to eat. *Pitta bread crammed with felafel found in the Marais* is delicious and only costs FF15 (£1.50), and a large plate of couscous costs as little as FF20 in Barbès.

Even McDonald's has felt obliged to upgrade its service in Paris and now provides salads and seafood.

● **La Tour d'Argent**, 15-17 quai de la Tourneille 5e (43 54 23 31). Most people only go once to La Tour, one of the most expensive restaurants in Paris. The restaurant boasts three Michelin stars and one of the best wine lists in the country. Started in 1582, the menu is still traditional and the famous duck dishes have been the same for a hundred years, but the restaurant is enjoying a renaissance with a new chef and many lighter recipes. FF400 lunch menu, or FF800 a la carte. Closed Monday.

● **Jules Verne**, Eiffel Tower 7e (45 55 61 44). This is the only way to go up the Eiffel tower in summer, to the second floor in the restaurant's own lift. Usually booked two months in advance, but in the summer you can sometimes sneak in that night. The restaurant has a Michelin star, unparalleled views of the city, and is a favourite for Parisians dining out-of-town friends and relatives. Chef Alain Barthelemy is of the old tradition, rarely emerges from the kitchen and eschews celebratory status, but his cuisine is provocative and inspired. Set lunch menu FF120.

● **Chez Pauline**, 5 rue Villedo, 1er (42 96 20 70). Chef-owner André Genin comes from Lyons and the dishes are mainly regional and classic. Terrines, beurre blanc sauce, tripe, pike and crème brûlée are served up on pristine white plates, and the waiters look as though they have been there since the restaurant opened in the 1940s. Average price for dinner FF450.

● **Le Petit Gavroche**, 15 rue Ste-Croix de la Bretonnerie, 4e (48 87 74 26). Louche and trendy and situated in the middle of the Marais, Le Petit Gavroche has peeling paint, a moulting stuffed deer stuck in a corner, and emanates noise. Very untouristy, this restaurant was serving good regional country dishes long before the *grands chefs* discovered them. FF55 for a set lunch.

● **Le Nioullaville**, 32-34 rue de l'Orillon, 11e (43 38 95 23). This vast Chinese restaurant looks like a school canteen with a few disconcerting tropical fish tanks dotted around, but it is the place to go for lunch at weekends. Dim sum is wheeled around on a trolley to 1930s music and there are 20 pages of Chinese dishes. Average price per dish FF40.

In the PROPERTY

THE city of romance attracts only a handful of British second-hand property buyers. In central Paris, where homes are privately rented though prices have dropped up to 25 per cent in the past years, few people can afford to buy — about £80,000 pays for a one-bedroom flat, £1 million or more for a three-bedroom house. Investments are not uncommon.

Parisians cluster together in huge apartment blocks of varying elegance and dilapidation. Houses with gardens are rare in the city centre and change hands for at least £2 million. Those who wish to have a house of their own usually move out to the leafy suburbs around Versailles, Boulogne, Maisons La Fite and Neuilly, where prices are more reasonable.

Apart from location, the price of a flat depends on its size and condition. Prices are worked out according to the number of square metres. The cost ranges from about FF15,000 (£1,500) a square metre to FF80,000 (£8,000) the fashionable 8th and 16th districts, where top flats sell for more than £1 million.

The cheapest areas of central Paris are to the north and east. A small flat — one piece (a room) plus a kitchen and a bathroom (about 40sq m) — on the 11th



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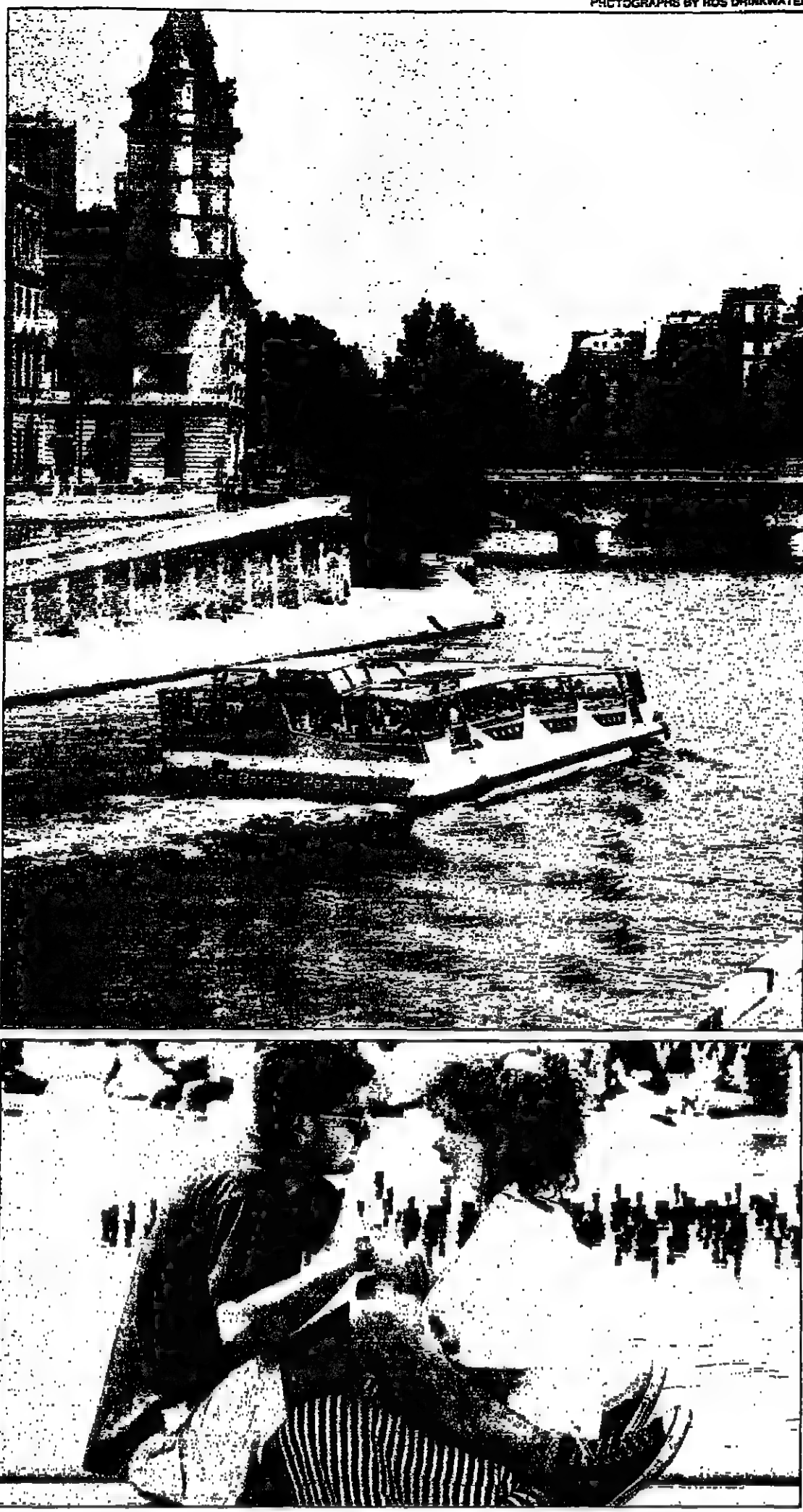
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سكنى الامم



Stay cool, by taking a break at the celebrated Les Deux Magots in St Germain; getting on the water in a *bateau mouche*; and just letting the world go by in the shade of the Louvre pyramid

id then eat the felafels as they
ze down on to your shoes.
The Goutte d'Or in the north-
est corner of the city, just east
Montmartre, is the centre of
aris's Arab and African immi-
ant communities. Jacques
nirac remarked last year that
hile strolling in the Goutte
Or he was shocked by its
migrants' foreign ways, not
mention the noises and
lours. His words caused a
orm of protest. Now more and
ore young Parisians are
travelling the area. The Saint
erre market has the best
aterials in Paris. There are
rab and African grocers, and
uturier Azzedine Alaïa has
signed special T-shirts for the
ea's discount store, Tail.
1^{re} Belleville, a northeast sub-

urb, restaurants are open all
night, and traditional Russian
cafés rub shoulders with Arab,
Chinese and Vietnamese restau-
rants. The speciality is a *sand-
wich tunisien*, a north African
sandwich filled with tuna and
black olives.
When it all gets too much, go
to the mosque opposite the
Jardin des Plantes. Inside the
green and white walls you will
find ancient carpets, huge
sculpted wooden doors, beauti-
ful courtyards and the Ham-
mam. This is the Turkish steam
baths where you can sweat out
your anxieties in peace and
feeling restored, recline on a soft
couch with a glass of mint tea.
● This is the last of our regional
guides to France. Next week, Best of
Britannia returns.

LAZY summer days should be spent
eating, snoozing and pottering around
local streets. For evening entertainment
pick up *Partiscope*, which comes out every
Wednesday and costs FF33 (30p). It lists
200 restaurants, every film showing in
Paris's 350 cinemas, clubs, exhibitions
and museums. Films are cheap on
Monday afternoons. Museums stay open
until 8pm on Thursdays (the best time to
go in summer, because they are virtually
deserted). Clubs start later and stay open
longer in Paris and Parisians will drop in
for an hour or two at a club between bars.
The scene is not as big as London but
there is much more choice with soul,
reggae, jazz, funk and techno all rubbing
shoulders. Most end at 5am, but if you've
got the energy there are a few that start at
7am in the morning, and there is often a
private *péniche* party on a boat which

NIGHT LIFE

starts after the clubs close and is only for
hard-core clubbers. Music and venues
change every night and British DJs are
often flown in for a one-night stand. The
best way to pick up information is to read
the fliers at Bastille Métro station and
listen to Radio NOVA 101FM, which
gives all the night's best raves. While
entrance is sometimes free, drinks can be
exorbitant, so it is best to find a bar
nearby for refreshment.
● Les Bains Douches, 7 rue du Bourg-
l'Abbé, 3e (48 87 01 80) is super-trendy
and has a heavy female bouncer at the
door. Music depends on the night and
there is a sushi bar upstairs where the
stars recline.
● Sherzade, 3 rue de Liège, 9e (48 74 85

20). Trendy young things go here for a
range of funk, reggae and rai music. A
former Russian cabaret, it has wonderful
gold pillars and lots of red velvet and looks
like an Arabian prince's tent.
● Le Flamingo, 184 rue Saint Jacques, 5e
(43 54 30 48) is where serious thirty-
somethings go to listen to jazz and blues
and discuss the demise of Parisian
culture.
● Le Cashbah, 18-20 rue de la Forge
Royale, 11e. The interior looks like a
Moorish temple and harem of women
drape themselves over vast cushions and
sip cocktails at FF50.
● Le Dépanneur, rue Fontaine, 9e. Open
24 hours. Heavenly bodies come to this
restaurant to relax after a hard night's
clubbing. Lycra-clad girls play pool while
the men slug tequila and hamburgers are
served all night.

HOW TO GET THERE

THE British visit Paris more often than any other
place in the world so there is a large choice of
transport. Arriving in the capital is almost always
stressful, whether you arrive at one of the six train
stations, have to plough through the confusion of
5,000 streets, or have to risk a vast taxi fare from the
airport. Once you have arrived, transport is easy.
The city is only six miles wide, so you can walk or take
the Métro to most destinations.
By plane: Flying time from London is just over an
hour. British Airways (081-897 4000) and Air
France (071-499 9511) have almost hourly services.
Brymon Airways 90345 717383 flies from London
City Airport in Docklands and from Bristol, Dan Air
(0293 820700) flies from Gatwick, British Midland
(0332 810552) flies from East Midlands.
By train: Trains depart daily from London's Victoria
Station or Charing Cross and arrive at the Gare du
Nord six to ten hours later. For more information
contact British Rail International (071-834 2345,
24 hours a day).
By car: The easiest links are Dover-Calais/Boulogne,
Folkestone-Boulogne or Ramsgate-Dunkerque.
Main lines are P&O European Ferries (0304
223000), Hoverspeed (0304 240202) and Sealink
British Ferries (0233 47022).
By bus: The cheapest way to get to Paris. Most
depart from Victoria Station. Contact Euroways
Eurolines at Victoria Coach Station (071-730 0202),
any National Express office or the Coach Travel
Centre (071-824 6657).
The Métro: 4.5 million people use the Métro every
day, in July and August it drops to 3 million. There
are 18 lines. A carnet of ten tickets costs FF34.50.

WHERE TO STAY



THERE are more
than 1,500 hotels in
Paris, so finding ac-
commodation is rel-
atively easy. Paris
prides itself on its lux-
urious "palace hotels"
which, for FF2,500 a
night, will do any-
thing from shampoo-
ing your dog to
procuring tickets for
that night's opera.
Two and one-star hotels abound with prices starting
at FF150, but few accept credit cards, and are
prepared to share bathroom facilities. The Paris
Tourist Office's information counters make same-
day hotel reservations. Hotel chains tend to be drab
and over-priced. If stranded head for the Goutte
d'Or (the Arabic quarter) just east of Montmartre,
where hotel rooms can cost as little as FF80 (bring
your own towel). Renting accommodation is almost
impossible unless you have Parisian aunts with spare
rooms. The Offres Meublées column in *Le Figaro*
occasionally has flats to rent for a month.

- Le Crillon, 10 place de la Concorde, 8e (42 65 24
24), double room FF1,650. Only for the rich or the
romantic, this is the last of the de luxe hotels still
owned by a French family, the Taittingers. The hotel
and its occupants vie to dazzle each other with their
splendours. Occasional residents include Madonna,
Yassir Arafat and Richard Nixon. The hotel includes
vast, ornate baths, outrageously luxurious beds and
dazzling chandeliers.
- Hotel Latetia, 45 boulevard Raspail, 7e (45 44 38
10), double FF950. Smothered in flowers, this
masterpiece of early art deco architecture houses one
of the best restaurants in Paris and guest rooms
styled by fashion designer Sonia Rykiel.
- L'Hôtel, 13 rue des Beaux Arts, 6e (43 25 27 22),
double FF850. In walking distance of everything,
the hotel is built around a tower and was the haunt of
Oscar Wilde. Wonderfully romantic.
- Castex, 5 rue Castex, 4e (42 72 31 52), double
FF220. Just off the Bastille and surrounded by cafés
and traditional *zincos* (bars), Castex is like a well-run
foster home. The owner/manager and his wife live
on the ground floor and constantly pop out to give
advice, soothe fraught nerves and administer first aid.
Breakfasts are vast and cheap.
- Hotel des Grandes Ecoles, 75 rue du Cardinal
Lemoine, 5e (43 26 79 23), double FF260. Turn off
the rue Cardinal Lemoine into a cobbled courtyard
and at the end is a miniature château surrounded by
gardens. The interior is just as charming.
- Saint-André-des-Arts, 66 rue St-André-des-Arts,
6e (43 26 96 16), double FF180. This 17th-century
hotel is home to many aspiring artists, models and
actors who know the cheapest, chicest places to hang
out. The street noise and late-night parties make it a
haven for night owls and a hell for anyone with
children.
- Bed and breakfast: Parisians are reserved about
inviting tourists into their homes, but an organiza-
tion called Café Couette (8 rue de L'Isly, 75008
Paris) has recently been extended to Paris and
provides a list of B&Bs.

city of towering prices



character: a restored house in Maison Lafitte for £595,000

or of an old block without a
in a less salubrious part of
18th, where Montmar-
rises with seedy Pigalle, for
ample, will cost about
5,000.
Areas such as Le Bastille in
11th are becoming
nitrified, but you can still buy
two-bedroom flat in an old
aracter building for about
30,000. A similar flat in the
ch more fashionable 6th and
19th the left bank near Notre-
dame and the Eiffel tower, will
st from £250,000 to
30,000.
The most exclusive addresses
lude Avenue Montaigne,
ai: d'Orsay, Palais Royal,
ces de Vosges, Champ de
Elysees, Parc de Monceau, Jardin
Luxembourg and Faubourg

St Honoré: also avenues off
the Champs-Élysées and Etoile.
The 16th, near the Bois de
Boulogne in the west of the city,
is pleasant, with wide, tree-lined
avenues and magnificent 19th-
century buildings. Here a large
apartment (100sq m) in an im-
posing *hôtel de ville* (town
house), built in grand style, with
high ceilings and *portes-
fenêtres à la française* (French
windows) leading to an ornate
wrought-iron balcony, will cost
at least £300,000.
Well-maintained flats in the
green and pleasant northwest-
ern suburbs, such as Maisons
Lafitte, Neuilly, Boulogne and
Versailles, start at £60,000
for one bedroom. To avoid
the massive rush-hour jams,
make sure there is a railway

or Métro station nearby.
Modern box-like detached
houses, with two or three bed-
rooms and a small garden, cost
from £150,000, about half an
hour on the train from central
Paris. Anything old and inter-
esting on the outskirts of the city
will be much more expensive -
at least £300,000 for a restored
character house, with three bed-
rooms and a garden.
The leasehold system does not
exist in France, where all prop-
erty is bought freehold. Flat
owners are jointly responsible
for the common areas and
decisions about maintenance
and repairs are taken collec-
tively by the residents in the block.
If you are buying a flat, check
your share of these maintenance
costs before signing the sale
contract.
There are many small firms of
estate agents in Paris, but
because most owners who wish
to sell advertise the property
themselves, prospective buyers
should study the small ads in the
French daily newspaper, *Le
Figaro*, and specialist
magazines.

CHERYL TAYLOR

● UK agents with associates in Paris
include Anglo-French Properties
Ltd, 111A Walton Street, London
SW3 (071-225 0359), and Property
France, Portway, Wantage, Oxford-
shire (0235 772211). Also, Philip
Hawkes, 44 rue du Faubourg St
Honoré, 75008 Paris (010 33 1 42
68 11 11).

GUIDE BOOKS

- *Time Out Paris Guide* (Penguin £9.99).
Undoubtedly the best for any age group. Lists up-to-date
nightclubs, bars and places to take children, with
entertaining historical anecdotes.
- *Blue Guide Paris* (Black/Norton £10.99). Rather
more restrained. Exhaustive to a fault, but covers nothing
which isn't in a gallery or a museum.
- *Paupers' Paris* (Pan £5.99). Long-established book
has excellent coverage of cheap hotels, restaurants and
shopping, but not adequate on museums or history.

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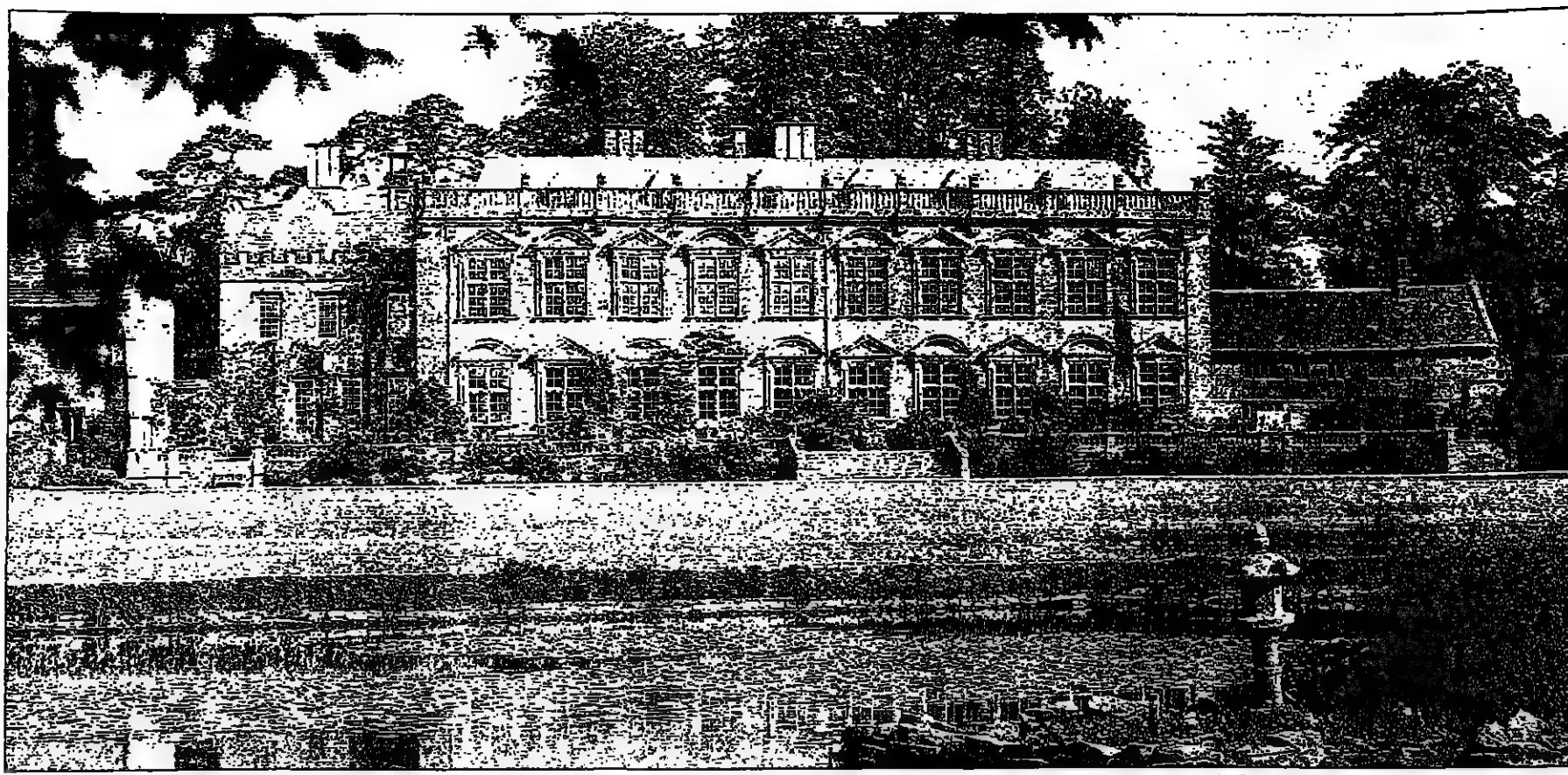
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SEALINK FERRY



Restored to its former glory: 15th-century Brympton d'Evercy, near Yeovil in Somerset, which has an award-winning garden, is for sale with 25 acres at £850,000

Mary Wilson describes how a neglected 15th-century house in a jungle was brought to life

A labour of love

Judy Clive-Ponsonby-Fane is one of those women who can turn her hand to most things. When she married in 1974, a lot of work was needed on the imposing 15th-century stately home — Brympton d'Evercy, near Yeovil in Somerset — which her husband, Charles, had recently inherited. Yet within five months seven state-rooms and nine acres of gardens were opened to the public.

"When we moved in the house was just an empty shell, although there were not too many repairs to be done," Mr Clive-Ponsonby-Fane says. "Judy made all the curtains and chair covers, and we spent much of our time in the local auction house buying furniture. She also did wonders with the garden in a very short time."

Sadly the house, which has been in his family for 300 years, and into which he and his wife have put nearly 18 years of effort to restore it to its former glory, culminating in winning the Christie's Garden of the Year award last year, is up for sale.

His grandmother had been a passionate gardener, and had the luxury of gardeners for her own pleasure, whereas his wife had to think "public", making sure there was colour in the garden all the

year round, and that it would need minimum maintenance.

The task of creating an instant garden was an uphill battle, she says. "A very good gardener came round when I was in the middle of planting hundreds and hundreds of shrubs, flowers and trees. I explained what I was doing and was somewhat taken aback when he told me it would take at least ten to 15 years to create a new garden. Looking back, I reckon it has taken at least 17 years. One of the first lessons I learnt was that some plants just do not like you."

The lawns take two people six days to mow, she says, and weed control is a nightmare. "I'm afraid I'm not very green in this department: I believe in mulching and weed spraying. One bed in the front was full of ground elder and I have taken the plunge, pulled everything out and just sprayed. It should stay clear for at least a year. I wish I had been more ruthless when I started. My only experience of gardening before I married was

looking after my herbaceous window boxes in London.

"It has taken an age to clear everything. We spent a year taking out all the brambles for our 'twig-oreum' — you can't call it an arboretum, it's much too small. I've put in trees which are fun, slightly different. We have yellow elms, a beige laburnum, *Fagus Fastigiata* (upright beeches), tulip trees, a handkerchief tree and a lovely magnolia *liliflora* 'Nigra'. And a few others whose names I can't remember, but they look very beautiful."

Across the lake, which is full of fish and unusual ducks, is the festival garden, containing all sorts of trees and shrubs of varying heights and shades of green and yellow, which changes all through the year. Mrs Clive-Ponsonby-Fane worked it all out with paper models, so that she could see what it would look like when fully grown.

On the front lawn is a collection of five "elephants". "Well, they will

look like elephants when they have grown a bit more," she says. "I planted them in privet, so they are a bit straggly. They are my only attempt at a folly."

Grandmother planted all white and yellow flowers in the beds at the front of the garden, and that theme has been maintained. Up the hill at the side of the house, past the most beautiful lilac hedges, are two spectacular Paulownia trees, which have purple foxglove flowers with brown hairy bracts. These come out in May and stand high above the giant leaves. To make an even more impressive show, the trees are pruned in April so the new leaves grow bigger, to about 18in across.

Higher up the hill is a bed full of foxgloves and Pteris (a shrub with red leaves and white flowers), which look quite splendid when they are all in bloom. Her pride is the winter garden, at its best from December to March. "Right now, you would wonder what this grotty little area was all about," she says. She has all the

earliest flowering bulbs in this bed — winter sweet japonica, winter jasmine and winter honeysuckle. "I must have bought thousands of plants over the years — I used to order them by the hundred — but now I mostly propagate from friends' plants and from my own. I adore propagating but it is very time consuming; you have to tend the plants daily."

"As to learning about gardening, I just read lots and lots of books, worked out what would flower when and what space it needed, and started planting."

The couple have one full-time gardener, and further help one morning a week in the vegetable garden, which includes an assortment of fruit trees — figs, apples, pears, quinces, plums, mulberries, apricots and gooseberries. Will they come back some time to see how the gardens are surviving under the new owner? "I don't think so," Mrs Clive-Ponsonby-Fane says. "If Brympton is bought by someone who neglects the garden I will be devastated, and if it is bought by someone who makes it look even better I will be jealous!"

● Brympton d'Evercy and its 25 acres are being offered for sale at £850,000 through the agents Strutt & Parker.

Cheese, milk and the cream of good value



Buyer's France

SEINE-MARITIME

The Pays-de-Bray region of the Seine-Maritime in northwest France is rustic and unspoilt, with a rolling green landscape scattered with river valleys and densely wooded slopes. A dairy-farming region, it has a number of attractive old market towns, including Aumale, Gournay and Neufchâtel-en-Bray, the old regional capital famous for its creamy cow's-milk cheese.

Old properties in this part of upper Normandy, between Dieppe and Rouen, represent some of the best value available. Old timbered houses in reasonable condition can be bought from £30,000. Large stone farmhouses with outbuildings suitable for conversion to gites, and a good chunk of agricultural land, cost from £40,000.

Most of the properties on offer are within an hour's drive of the windswept coast at le Tréport, an old harbour town and seaside resort, with shingle beaches beneath spectacular white cliffs. Property prices in le Tréport are more expensive — expect to pay at least £30,000 for a small holiday flat with sea views, and from £45,000 for an old detached villa built on four floors, with three bedrooms and balconies overlooking the sea.

For British weekenders, the Seine-Maritime area is easily accessible, being within two-and-a-half hours' drive from Boulogne

or Calais, or you can sail direct to Dieppe or Le Havre. A new motorway planned to link Calais-Abbeville and Rouen will cut the current journey time from Calais to the Dieppe region by half.

Situated in the Pays-de-Bray region of the Seine-Maritime, between the old market town of Blangy-sur-Bresle and the coast at le Tréport, the pretty *colombage* (half-timbered) house pictured below, next-door to a café in a small hamlet, is for sale at £28,000 (including agency fees). The Channel port of Dieppe is 45 minutes' drive away.

The old house is in good habitable condition, with lots of character, but needs some interior redecoration and central heating. It has a living room, dining-room, kitchen, utility room and WC on the ground floor; two bedrooms and shower-room upstairs; plus a loft for conversion and a small rear garden. The UK agent is Northern France Property, 70 Brewer Street, London W1 (071-287 4940).

CHERYL TAYLOR



Hamlet house: this *colombage* is £28,000

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VIEW OUR SHOWHOUSE THIS WEEKEND 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 cars, roof garden. 1990. £110,000. Tel: 01895 621100.	TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SPECIAL INCENTIVES ON AN EARLY MOVE. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 cars, roof garden. 1990. £110,000. Tel: 01895 621100.	CHERSEA OAKLEY ST 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 cars, roof garden. 1990. £110,000. Tel: 01895 621100.	BARBICAN 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 cars, roof garden. 1990. £110,000. Tel: 01895 621100.	WEST COAST OF BARBADOS 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 cars, roof garden. 1990. £110,000. Tel: 01895 621100.	DEVON HOUSE & COTTAGE 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 cars, roof garden. 1990. £110,000. Tel: 01895 621100.
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1501-1502

BBC1

- 6.45 Open University. Plant Growth Regulators: Whatver Turns You On (5324859) 7.10 Maths: Modelling Drug Therapy (5294472) 7.35 Chardin and the Female Image (3381439) 8.00 Urban Development: Gainers and Losers (8822101) 8.25 Physics Beyond Experience (8119052)
- 8.50 Summer Sunday. A service from Chesham, World of Adventures in Surrey (5150777)
- 10.00 Sign Extra: Bazaar presented by Nerys Hughes. Includes news of the competition launched at this year's BDA Conference to find a new deaf playwright. With signing and subtitles (5) (41694)
- 10.30 Student Choice '92. Nicky Campbell and Carmen Pryce present a guide to courses, resitting examinations and college life (5) (28474)
- 11.30 Bird's-Eye View. Inis Fall - Isle of Destiny. The story of a journey around Ireland by the writer James Plunkett. With readings by T.P. McKenna, Richard Pasco and Sir John Betjeman (5) (79156)
- 12.30 Countryfile. John Caven presents rural news and views (1641168) 12.55 Weather (5131954)
- 1.00 News (7241352) followed by The High Chaparral. Classic western series. Buck's (Cameron Mitchell) decision to escape from the rigours of ranch life backfire (5) (1613120)
- 2.00 Eldorado (5). (Cee-fax) (5) (42323)
- 3.00 Film: The Sheriff of Fractured Jaw (1958). Kenneth More stars in this comedy western about a blind gunslinger who, after reading about gunfights in the Times, decides to sell his wares in the wild west. Directed by Raoul Walsh (488588) 5.10 Cartoon (5061014)
- 5.20 Steven Spielberg's Amazing Stories: The Striver. Two young teenagers meet their match in a new Jamaican babysitter. (Cee-fax) (5) (910584)
- 5.45 Europe by Design: Objects of Desire. Tom Vernon continues his search for European style. This week he sets out to discover how our taste in furniture is formed. (Cee-fax) (645859)
- 6.15 LifeLine. Alan Titchmarsh appears on behalf of Telephones for the Blind (63975) 6.25 News with Mollie Stuart. Weather (765439)
- 6.40 Songs of Praise from the Glens Causeway, off the coast of County Antrim. (Cee-fax) (5) (916052)
- 7.15 The Two Ronnies. Vintage comedy sketches and music from Messrs Corbett and Barker (5). (Cee-fax) (165491)
- 8.05 Film: Dinner at Eight (1989). Strongly cast remake of George Cukor's 1933 comedy about New York society. A leading Park Avenue hostess is given a week's notice to organise a grand dinner party. Starring Lauren Bacall, Marsha Mason and Charles Durning. Directed by Ron Lagomarsino. (Cee-fax) (10535269)
- 9.45 News with Martin Lewis. (Cee-fax) Weather (163439)



Strangely and courage: Jason Hayhoe and family (10.00pm)

- 10.00 Everyman: Living for Jason
- CHOICE: The new series of Everyman opens with the story of Wendy and Martin Hayhoe who have to deal with a predicament any parent must dread. Their son Jason has a rare and incurable disease, shared by only five other children in the country, which means that he is condemned to an early death. The wonder is that he has survived so long, but at four and a half he cannot walk or talk, has to be fed and is kept alive only by huge doses of drugs. His parents had the chance to let him slip away but could not bring themselves to do it. Sympathetic care at a children's hospice has helped to ease Wendy and Martin's burden but they must still face the fact that Jason may die at any time. They do so with strength and courage and an admirable lack of bitterness. (Cee-fax) (650052)
- 10.40 Film: Mass Appeal (1984). Adaptation of Bill C. Davis's Broadway play, which Jack Lemmon in prime form as a parish priest whose world is shattered by the arrival of a fiery young theology student. Directed by Glenn Jordan (42616120)
- 12.15am Weather (1771163)

BBC2

- 6.35 Open University. Mathematical Models and Methods (5331149) 7.00 Modern Art: Greenberg on Pollock (5201762) 7.25 Cellular Growth (5220897) 7.50 Culture and Belief in Europe 1450-1650 (1098830) 8.15 Global Sea-Level (8111410) 8.48 Living with Technology (4101507) 9.05 The Regulation of Flowering (7860217) 9.30 Arts: A New Museum in South Kensington (9983410) 9.55 Dating a Granite (6453120) 10.20 The Traditions and the Environment (5720526) 11.10 So You Want to be a Better Manager (1984694) 11.35 Mental Handicap: Moving On (5200383)
- 12.00 Sunday Grandstand introduced by Bob Wilson. The line-up is: 12.00, 1.30 Motor Cycling: Round four of the British Superbike from Cadwell Park. Commentary by Barry Nudley and Steve Parrish; 12.30, 2.45 and 4.45 Bowls: Woolwich Outdoor singles final from Worthing. With commentary by Jimmy Davidson, David Rhys-Jones, David McGill and David Bryant; 3.45 Equestrian. British Open Horse Trials from Gatcombe Park. Commentary by Raymond Brooks-Ward and Michael Hill; 4.55 The Phil Drabble introduces the second heat from Emmerdale Valley in the Lake District. Ray Otterhouse provides the commentary (5) (656168)
- 6.30 One Man and His Dog. Phil Drabble introduces the second heat from Emmerdale Valley in the Lake District. Ray Otterhouse provides the commentary (5) (656168)
- 7.15 The Living Planet: The Frozen World. In this re-run of the award-winning Life Trilogy series, David Attenborough explores how plants and animals survive in snow and ice (5). (Cee-fax) (154385)

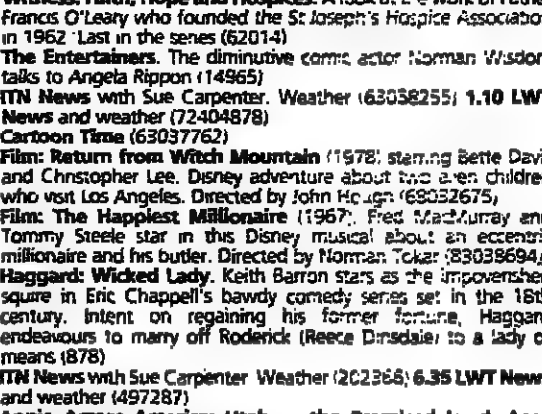


Graveyard spooks, Chapman and Kelley (8.10pm)

- 8.10 Our Winnie. The Alan Bennett season continues with a typically funny-wry piece from 1982. Eric usually drives Cora, Winnie and Auntie Ida to the cemetery. However, his enthusiasm is dampened by his sub-aqua gear, marauding art students and Winnie's continual disagreements. Starring Elizabeth Spriggs, Constance Chapman and Sheila Kelley (5) (783472)
- 8.50 Horizon Special: Hide and Seek in Iraq
- CHOICE: As President Bush prepares to bomb Iraq, or not as the case may be, this timely one-off from Horizon charts the attempts by the United Nations' team to track down Saddam Hussein's secret arsenal. The UN sent in its special commission after the Gulf war with the task of finding and eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Footage from UN videos reveals how the mission became an elaborate game of hide and seek, leading to tense confrontations and almost to another war. The film also shows the destruction of Iraq's supergun, reveals the extent of the nuclear facility in Tuwaitha and gives an inside view of the world's largest toxic chemical plant. Two questions remain: How was this huge weapons programme allowed to go undiscovered for so long? And is there still hidden in the land desert? (423110)
- 9.40 Moviedrome. Alex Cox introduces Tracks (1976). Bland rock movie starring Dennis Hopper as a US army sergeant escorting the coffin of an American soldier killed during the Vietnam war. Written and directed by Henry Jaglom. (Cee-fax) (521052)
- 11.15 The Night Stalker: The Ripper. Investigative journalist Carl Kolchak (Darren McGavin) is on the trail of a mass murderer. Last in the present series (53940)
- 12.05am Film: Crime in the Streets (1957, BW). The network television premiere of a brisk crime drama starring John Cassavetes. The leader of a teenage gang is bent on revenge but only two of his comrades are prepared to join him. With James Whitmore and Sal Mineo. Directed by Don Siegel (906786). Ends at 1.40

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (9114138)
- 9.25 Film: The Absent-Minded Professor (1958). Concluding part of the remake of the 1961 Disney comedy. Starring Harry Anderson (3954192)
- 10.20 The Littlest Hobo. Canine adventure series. 5.25.25.
- 10.45 Link. Lydia Cooke goes hot-air ballooning and reports on Back up, an organisation which promotes skiing for disabled people. (Oracle) (6915168)
- 11.00 Morning Worship from the Holy Trinity Church in Wandsworth Wells, Wales (70694)

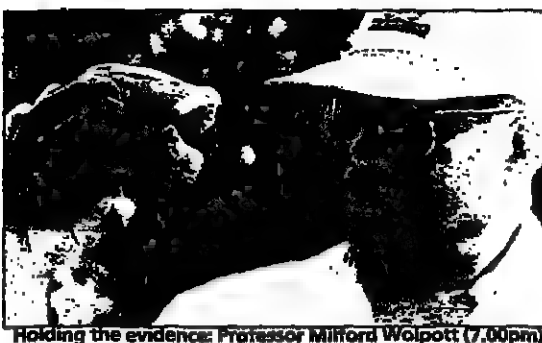


Relaxing with two friends: Father Francis O'Leary (midday)

- 12.00 Witness: Faith, Hope and Hospices. A look at the work of Father Francis O'Leary who founded the St Joseph's Hospice Association in 1962. Last in the series (82014)
- 12.30 The Eccentrics. The diminutive comic actor Norman Wisdom talks to Angela Rippon (14985)
- 1.00 ITN News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (63058255) 1.10 LWT News and weather (72404878)
- 1.15 Cartoon Time (6303762)
- 1.30 Film: Return from Witch Mountain (1978) starring Bette Davis and Christopher Lee. Disney adventure about two alien children who visit Los Angeles. Directed by John Hargis (6932675)
- 3.15 Film: The Happiest Millionaire (1967). Fred MacMurray and Tommy Steele star in this Disney musical about an eccentric millionaire and his butler. Directed by Norman Tokar (83038694)
- 6.00 Haggard: Wicked Lady. Keith Barron stars as the impoverished seer in Eric Chappell's heavy comedy series set in the 18th century. Intent on regaining his former fortune, Haggard endeavours to marry off Roderick (Reece Dinsdale) to a lady of means (1878)
- 6.30 ITN News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (632368) 6.35 LWT News and weather (487287)
- 6.40 Annie Across America: Utah - the Promised Land. Anne Gregg arrives in Salt Lake City, home of the Mormons and gateway to the wild west. (Oracle) (901120)
- 7.15 Murder, She Wrote: Murder, Plain and Simple. Jessica Fletcher's companion is suspected of murder when they travel to the Amish countryside. Starring Angela Lansbury. (Oracle) (618439)
- 8.10 Sacred Thoughts: Marriage of Inconvenience. Faith's children are indifferent to their mother's impending marriage to Bill. Starring Lydia Bellingham and James Solari (5). (Oracle) (233859)
- 8.40 ITN News with Sue Carpenter. Weather (162168)
- 9.00 Columbo: Grand Deceptions. The dishevelled detective investigates the death of a sergeant major at training camp for mercenaries. Starring Peter Falk (5). (Oracle) (806157)
- 10.45 The Monarchy. The second of a six-part series on the workings of the monarchy examines the relationship between the sovereign and her people, and examines ways in which the monarchy has tried to bridge the gap between crown and country in an increasingly democratic age. (Oracle) (912033)
- 11.15 TV Squash. Continuing its inimitable look at broadcasting, the team turns its attention to Australian police, police drama and game shows, assisted by Roy Hattersley, Peter O'Brien and singer Sonia (919946)
- 11.45 Cue the Music. The second part of a 1968 concert by Elvis Presley, who died 15 years ago this week (122149)
- 12.45am Elvis: A Portrait by His Friends. Tom Jones and BB King are joined by other rock artists in a tribute to Elvis Presley (540079)
- 2.15 The TV Chart Show (5) (520415)
- 3.15 Film: The Highway (1983). Routine French thriller starring and directed by Alain Delon. The police and underworld await the release from jail of a diamond thief so he can lead them to the unrecovered gems. In French with English subtitles (98728960)
- 5.30 ITN Morning News with Brenda Rowe (20939). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Trans World Sport (5) (11156) 7.00 Take Five. For younger viewers (73781) 7.30 Wilko the Wisp. Animated adventures (5) (7984269) 7.35 Sharky and George. Fishy detective stories (3555014) 8.05 Pro Stars. Cartoon (6847410) 8.30 Kelly Canine adventures (99168) 9.00 Spacecats. Feline cartoon (7856014)
- 9.25 The Sword of Tipu Sultan. Epic Indian drama in Hindi with English subtitles (4253410)
- 10.45 Dennis. Cartoon adventures of a mischievous boy (5) (6906410)
- 11.00 Owl TV with Nicholas Strehlen (5). (Teletext) (4633)
- 11.30 News. Adventures of a friendly dolphin (105)
- 12.00 Little House on the Prairie. Homegrown drama series (91014)
- 1.00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea: Terror. The submariners are possessed by alien plant creatures (55502)
- 2.00 Film: Shoah (1985). Continuing Claude Lanzmann's eloquent film about the Holocaust, starting with an interview with former SS officer Franz Schuchmann, who served at Treblinka (74232878)
- 4.15 Ashkenazy plays Schumann. The pianist Vladimir Ashkenazy plays Schumann's Papillons, Op 2 and the Symphonies Etudes. Op 13 (5) (1153859)
- 4.40 Film: Shoah. The conclusion of Claude Lanzmann's nine-hour film (37783566) 6.20 News and weather (652526)
- 6.30 The Cosby Show: You Can Go Home Again. Popular American family comedy series. Starring Bill Cosby. (Teletext) (472)



Holding the evidence: Professor Milford Wolpott (7.00pm)

- 7.00 Equinox: Dead Men Talk
- CHOICE: One of the more memorable offerings from the last Equinox series gets a deserved repeat, enabling us to ponder again on the origins of the human race. The programme is essentially a tribute to new dating techniques which suggest that the first recognisable humans go back a good deal further than was previously believed. A key piece of evidence was provided by the Qafzeh boy found in Israel, now established to be 100,000 years old and therefore smashing the theory that our ultimate ancestors were the comparatively more recent Neanderthals. The film goes on to explore two rival theories about the later stages of human evolution. One says that humans emerged from many different places, the other that we are all descended from a single African population. The treatment of complex ideas is throughout lucid and accessible (5). (Teletext) (2651)
- 8.00 Europe Express. Isabella Stasi Castriota, Klaus Schwabgrün, Stefan Rybar and Marie Guichoux report on European issues (4033)
- 8.30 The Real Thing. The second of a three-part series looking at religious belief in a post-modern world. Narrated by Geoffrey Palmer and Zeb Wanamaker (62255)
- 9.30 Sea Fishing. Among the rich and colourful fauna and flora of the Zambesi valley, above Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls, angler John Wilson uses spinning tackle to catch a variety of exotic freshwater species (92743)
- 10.00 Film: Jackknife (1988). Strongly acted version of a stage play in which two Vietnam veterans reunite for a fishing trip. Robert De Niro has excoriated his memories of the war and Ed Harris is a traumatised victim. Directed by David Jones. (Teletext) (5) (4139)
- 12.00 Extreme East. Lasse Kistama presents the east European music magazine (270329)
- 12.35am Cinema: Jacques Rivetta. The conclusion of the two-part documentary by Claire Denis about one of the founders of the French New Wave. In French with English subtitles (9232328). Ends at 1.35

The numbers now appearing next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes, numbers which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a Videoplayer in hand. Videoplayer can be used with most videos. To see the video PlusCodes for the programme you wish to record, for more details call Videoplayer on 0800 12104 (calls charged at 48p per minute plus 10p of a call) or write to Videoplayer, VTM Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JA. Videoplayer (TM), Pluscode (TM) and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Marketing Ltd.

SATellite

- SKY ONE
- Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites (53255) 1.30pm Those Were the Days (53751) 1.30pm Travel Destinations (53120) 12.30pm The Bonanza (54057) 1.30pm Target (53538) 2.30pm Bowling (56743) 3.30pm The Reporters (75491) 4.30pm Those Were the Days (1548) 5.00pm Live at Five (28491) 6.30pm Chopper Squad (52538) 7.00pm Hart to Hart (75079) 8.00pm In a Heartbeat (74743) 8.20pm Lost in Space (46388) 1.00pm Chopper Squad (52538) 2.00pm Hart to Hart (75079) 3.00pm In a Heartbeat (74743) 4.00pm Hotel (60594) 5.00pm All American Wrestling (1588) 6.00pm Growing Pains (5459) 6.30pm The Simpsons (74917) 7.00pm 21 Jump Street (78789) 8.00pm Caroline and Kings: Mini series based on Taylor Caldwell's novel. The story of Joseph Merrick, an Irish immigrant and his struggle in an ordinary America (1) (5) (50523) 10.00pm Falcon Crest (78930) 11.00pm Entertainment. Tonight (16323) 12.00pm Pages from History
- SKY MOVIES+
- Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites (53564) 6.00pm Twice upon a Time (1988): Animated fantasy (50752743) 8.35pm Star Wars (1977): The film boy rescued a princess (5313439) 12.00pm The Mirror Crack'd (1980): Miss Marple tracks down a killer (89878) 2.00pm Brenda Starr (1950): Comic-book news on the hour.
- SKY NEWS
- Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites (53564) 6.00pm Brenda Starr (1950): Comic-book news on the hour.



The forecast is three million deaths.

Parts of Africa are suffering severe drought, suffering made worse by the effects of war. In Somalia the whole country risks death from starvation. In normally fertile Zimbabwe almost 50% of the crops have failed. Unless thousands of tonnes of food are sent, millions will face starvation.

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- Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites (53564) 6.00pm Brenda Starr (1950): Comic-book news on the hour.
- SKY MOVIES+
- Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites (53564) 6.00pm Brenda Starr (1950): Comic-book news on the hour.
- SKY NEWS
- Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites (53564) 6.00pm Brenda Starr (1950): Comic-book news on the hour.

- THE MOVIE CHANNEL
- Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites (53564) 6.00pm Brenda Starr (1950): Comic-book news on the hour.
- SKY SPORTS
- Via the Astra and Mariposa satellites (53564) 6.00pm Brenda Starr (1950): Comic-book news on the hour.

- RADIO 1
- Pick of the Pope: Alan Freeman with the charts from 1963, 1972 and 1983. 2.30pm Chris Evans presents Too Much Love. 4.00pm The Complete UK Top 40 with Bruno Brookes. 7.00pm Tony's Top 100 Selection (Part 2). 8.00pm Alan Freeman's Request Show. 10.00pm Gary Davies.
- RADIO 2
- 12.00 The Village Years: Diamond Carrington with 2 All-Time Greats. 2.00pm John McVie: 3.00pm All Day - Sounds Like. 4.00pm News and Music. 4.30pm Sing Something Simple. 5.00pm Match Report. 5.30pm Richard Barber with Melodics for Your 8.30pm Sunday Half Hour. 8.40pm Alan Freeman with Your Hundred Best Tracks. 10.00pm Radio 2 Arts Programme: Dame Beryl Grey in Conversation with... 10.30pm Melodics. 11.00pm News and Music. 11.30pm News with Night Ride.
- RADIO 3
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- WORLD SERVICE
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BUSINESS TIMES

SATURDAY AUGUST 22 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

SPORT
24-30

WEEKEND MONEY

Profile

Peter Bonfield, chairman and chief executive of ICL, is not a man of the establishment and he does not care. What he cares more about is that while his rivals are tightening their belts and suffering the effects of recession, he is presiding over a profitable computer company, which came back from the brink of bankruptcy ten years ago. Page 17



Cutting glass

Waterford Wedgwood, the glass and china group, is laying off 500 workers and cutting all salaries in its loss-making operations in Ireland as a result of recurring losses. Page 16

Postal rates

Three more building societies have launched postal savings accounts this week, into an already overcrowded market. These accounts offer the best rates with minimum risk. Page 20



Royal battle

Carol Wells and her husband, Paul, have won a 14-month battle with Royal Life, after they were sold the wrong type of investment policy, leaving them locked into paying premiums until 2036. They are now promised all their premiums back with interest. When Mrs Wells asked a Royal Life agent for advice on saving for seven years to build up a lump sum for her 16-year-old son, she was sold a insurance policy with cover that was neither needed nor requested. Page 21



Ailing policies

More policyholders have stopped paying critical illness premiums but will not get much of their money back. Companies are wooing customers with wider cover and lower premiums. Page 21

Youth move

The Halifax is to extend its maxm students' and young workers' package to new customers from Wednesday. They will be offered vouchers and interest free overdrafts up to £300. Page 21



Surveys binge

Banks are dialling 'S' for service and have started carrying out surveys of customers to find out what they think of their banks. Preventing staff from hanging up on customers is one measure. Page 19

Banks rescue Ratners after £122m losses

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

RATNERS, the jewellery chain, has been rescued by its bankers who have extended its £450 million loans until next June after the group plunged to a loss of £122 million in the year to end-January following disastrous trading before Christmas.

The group is undergoing a £98 million reorganisation which will lead to the closure of 330 stores in Britain and America and the loss of more than 2,000 jobs over the next three years.

Ratners banks, led by Barclays, have agreed to extend its loans even though the group breached its borrowing agreements at the start of the year. The banks have relaxed the group's lending terms to allow it to continue trading but have demanded heavy new security for the loans, extension and can recall their loans if the group fails to keep to the new agreement.

The new arrangement will also allow Ratners to repay its euroconvertible bond which becomes due at the end of October, at a cost of £58 million. This will take the company close to its £450 million borrowing limit, although the group's cash flow is being boosted by its failure to pay dividends on any of its ordinary or preference shares since January. Ratners paid a 2.4p interim dividend last year.

Ratners' loss was in line with expectations and compares with a profit of £112 million last time. The group's British operations suffered an

operating loss of £16.6 million due to a 15 per cent fall in like-for-like sales. The American operations made an £18 million profit.

The losses were mainly caused by interest charges of £26.8 million, up 21 per cent, and exceptional reorganisation charges of £98 million. The charges include £47 million for branch closures, £7.3 million in stock writedowns, and £10.2 million provision against the value of the employee share ownership plan.

The Ratners jewellery stores were worst affected by the recession and sales fell 24 per cent. Aggressive promotions and discounting failed to attract more customers, as the recession curbed pre-Christmas spending when the group generates a high proportion of its profit for the year.

The group also admitted that the notorious speech by Gerald Ratner, the chief executive, to the Institute of Directors annual conference, in which he described one of the group's products as "total crap", contributed to the decline. H Samuel and Ernest Jones, the group's other main jewellery chains, suffered a smaller fall in sales.

The planned closures will hit Ratners' hardest and the group plans to close 112 of the most unprofitable stores, leaving only 135 in the largest towns and cities. The group also expected to shut 44 Ernest Jones shops and 22 H Samuel sites. In America, the group forecasts 150 closures.

Mr Ratner admitted yesterday that the group had been too eager to open branches in the States. "We did create some duplication. These stores were unnecessary even at the time of the boom, and there is over-representation in some areas," he said.

James McAdam, who became Ratners' chairman last January, has carried out a thorough review of the group with McKinsey, the management consultancy firm. He said the group would refocus its three main chains in Britain, Ratners, H Samuel and Ernest Jones and cut down on product overlap. In the past, up to a third of the goods in each chain were available at the other two.

Mr McAdam promised a move upmarket and a drive to improve service and quality, while the group plans to cut back on its famous discounts and increase prices. A reduction in the ranges will help H Samuel and Ernest Jones create more attractive window displays.

Mr McAdam is tightening Ratners' financial management to reduce borrowings and cut costs. In the year to end-January, working capital fell by £64 million to £296 million, and should fall further in the current year.

Mr McAdam said: "Our main priority is to get the business back on a wholly viable footing. We are not anticipating any upturn and we are managing the business accordingly."

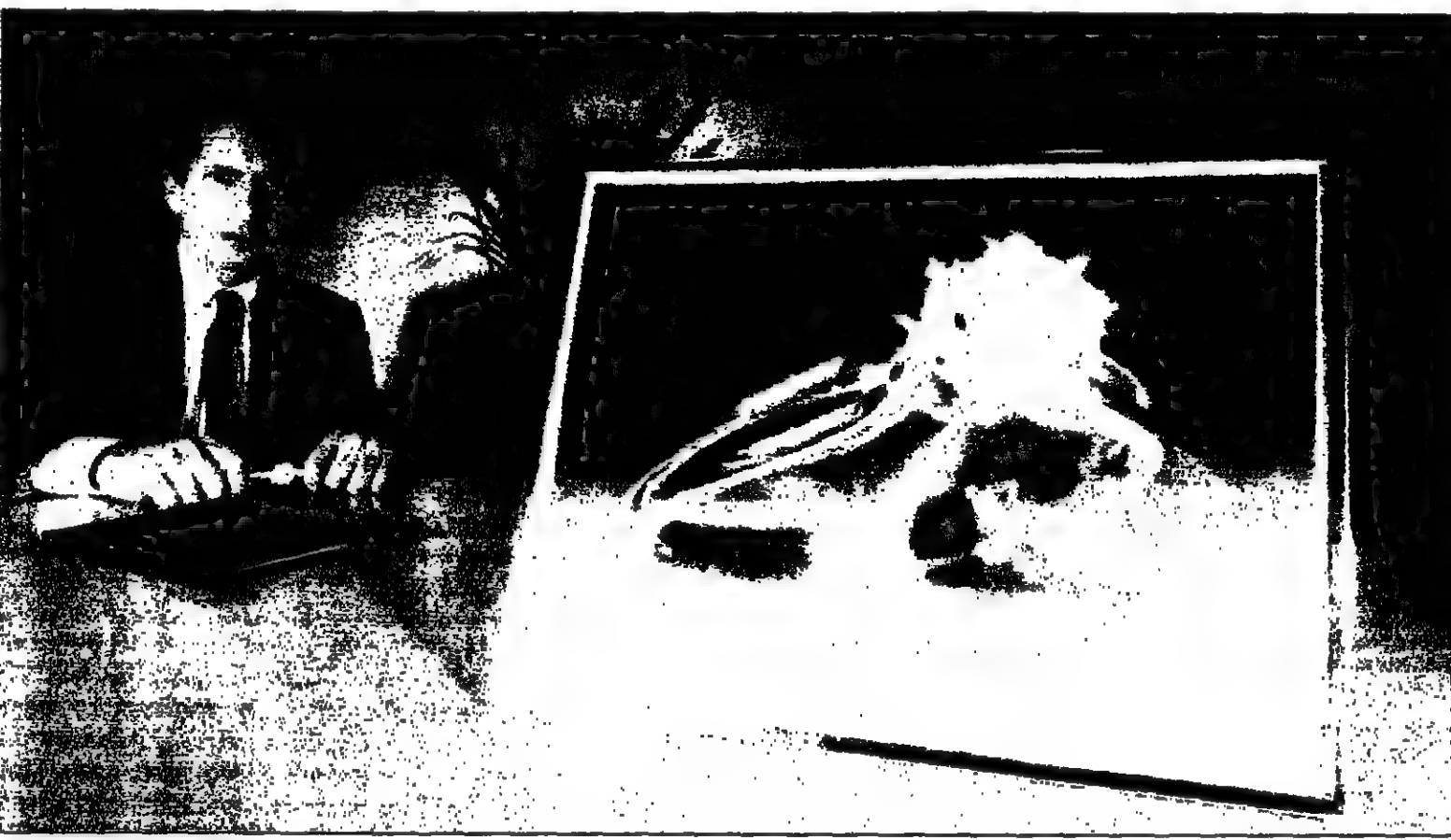
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Cuts in store: Gerald Ratner, chief executive, will see up to 330 shops and 2,000 jobs go during the company's £98 million reorganisation

Dollar slides to postwar low against mark

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

CENTRAL banks failed to halt the dollar's slide to a postwar low against the mark after a hectic day of costly trench warfare against investors and speculators on the foreign exchange markets. The dollar eventually tumbled to DM1.4278, more than 1.5 pence below its previous worst.

In the process, sterling lost further ground against the German currency in the European exchange-rate mechanism, passing the threshold at which governments are presumed, under the rules of the ERM, to take action to stabilise their currency. There-

after, sterling continued to fall against the mark, touching DM2.7975, another new low since ERM entry. Sterling continued to rise against the dollar, however, gaining 2.3 cents to \$1.9590.

The failure of central banks to stop the dollar's headlong fall, combined with tensions in the ERM, threatened the worst bout of instability seen in foreign exchange markets since the autumn of 1987. In that case, the lack of policy responses by government led to the crash in world stock markets. A routine meeting of finance ministers of the Group of 7 leading industrial countries next week is likely to be upgraded in an attempt to

persuade the German government to raise taxes.

Seventeen central banks in North America and Europe had bought dollars and sold marks in at least five separate rounds of co-ordinated intervention yesterday afternoon, after the dollar had slipped to DM1.4470, less than half a penny above its then lowest. Heavy buying by the New York Federal Reserve and other banks initially caught the markets by surprise, lifting the dollar to about DM1.4600. The price relapsed, however, as more sellers appeared, mainly from America and Switzerland, and successive bouts of official buying had less and less effect.

By late afternoon in London, sellers had put the central banks to flight.

The latest round of dollar weakness stemmed from Wednesday's statistics showing that the rapid growth of German money supply had shown little sign of abating. This dashed market hopes of an early easing of German monetary policy and emphasised the gap of nearly 6 per cent between German and American interest rates.

American financial markets had initially been lifted by President Bush's nomination speech at the Republican on Thursday night and signs that he was catching up in opinion polls. The dollar's heading

fall reversed this, pushing the Dow Jones index down 34.85 points to 3,270.04 by mid-afternoon in New York.

Sterling had fallen slightly to DM2.8058 when the last ERM grid was calculated, at which the pound was diverging by 76 per cent of its permitted range against the ecu, just beyond the 75 per cent threshold at which governments are nominally supposed to take corrective action.

Later falls left sterling within two pence of its permitted low against the mark of DM2.7780. Had the central banks managed to support the dollar against the mark, they might also have eased pressure on the pound.

Manders escapes Kalon hostile bid

By COLIN CAMPBELL

MANDERS, the paint, ink and property company, yesterday retained its independence when at 1pm the hostile £85.7 million takeover bid from Kalon Group lapsed.

Kalon said its offer had attracted only 21.2 per cent of Manders' capital, an outcome that was "disappointing".

A statement by British Steel Pension Fund, made well before yesterday's final closing date, that it would not accept the bid did not help Kalon's case. Mike Hennessy, the company's managing director, said:

"BSPF spoke for 22 per cent of Manders' equity. Other institutions followed its lead and also publicly declared they would not accept. This meant that various other shareholders did not even bother to do the paper work on the offer. Mr Hennessy said.

Roy Amos, chairman of Manders, and Roger Akers, chief executive, said the company was pleased to have succeeded. The management would be able to get down to work again to make the business grow and so live up to the profit forecast made during the takeover battle.

Neither side has indicated the costs of the bid. Manders' shares fell 2p to 186p. Kalon's rose 0.5p to 62p.

Manders said that it was grateful for the faith that shareholders had shown in its future. It looked forward to justifying that faith. "I warmly thank them for their support," Mr Amos said.

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Barratt offers 8.5% fixed-rate mortgage

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

A THREE-year, fixed-rate mortgage at 8.5 per cent — at least two percentage points lower than most standard mortgage rates — is being offered by Barratt Developments to the buyers of its homes who exchange contracts before October 16. The offer applies to the first £50,000 on houses outside the South East and the first £60,000 of loans in the region.

The deal, announced by Sir Lawrie Barratt, the chairman, is available to both buyers of Barratt-built properties and those taken in part exchange for Barratt homes. The last time mortgage rates from building societies were that low was in 1978. Standard mortgage rates are currently 10.65 to 11.25 per cent. The

move from Barratt, which sold 5,000 homes last year, is intended to help the housing market by restoring buyers' confidence.

The company said: "It follows the government's lack of response to growing industry concern that homebuyers are being penalised for failed economic policies."

Sir Lawrie said: "Along with others in the building industry, I have called upon the Chancellor to reduce interest rates to help stimulate the housing market and lead the country out of recession."

"We have now decided to take the initiative ourselves. At a stroke, we have substantially reduced the mortgage rate applicable to Barratt house-buyers."

Where cash machines need wing mirrors

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

UNLIKE in Britain, where bank customers are generally exposed to the elements while pulling paper rectangles from an often recalcitrant robot, operating automated teller machines (ATM) in New York is a much more secure and conscious affair.

As a separate part of a bank branch, the machine is enclosed, air conditioned and designed to give privacy and shelter. Entry is gained by slipping your cash card into the 'door' lock. Once in, the theory goes, you are safe from not only natural elements, but the criminal variety too.

New York City politicians do not believe this is enough and are debating local laws requiring banks to spend millions on new surveillance systems, locks and mirrors.



Proposals would demand a 24-hour video at and near the machine. The ATM lobby would have at least one glass door with a lock that would not open until a personal identification number was punched in. Mirrors would enable customers to see who was waiting behind them. Some politicians are even calling for a security guard on the premises. New York ATM etiquette requires at least 4 ft

between the user and the next customer to reassure the user who may fear the next in line is memorising their pin number.

Prompting the call for what would be the toughest security surrounding ATMs anywhere in America has been a series of violent robberies involving the City's policemen. Last year, an assistant Manhattan district attorney was shot at a cash machine in

Brooklyn and a police officer was killed in mid-town attempting to prevent a robbery at another. The city says there were 743 recorded ATM robberies last year and many more unreported.

In Chicago, a 24-year-old woman was accosted in her home and forced to withdraw \$400 from a cash machine before she was shot in the head and subsequently died. Chicago requires restricted ATM hours and a panic button in the lobbies. In California, several people have been murdered, either after they have been to, or been abducted from, ATMs.

Despite all the current security, entry locks can now be opened with any kind of magnetised card. The comforts of the lobby also provides excellent shelter for New York's homeless, who often follow you in anyway.

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Fidelity Investments

Troubled Waterford to cut pay and jobs

By Rodney Hobson

RECURRING losses have brought drastic action at Waterford, the Irish half of Wedgwood, the glass and china group.

Paddy Galvin, Waterford chief executive, who has been strengthening his control of the board, has turned his attention to the unions with a five-point plan to cut costs. He wants to shed 500 jobs; bring in lower piece rates for craft workers; cut pay; freeze it until February 1994; and exact a promise of no industrial action for at least five years.

He also proposes changes to the sickness benefit scheme and a streamlining of manufacturing. The proposals affect

the three factories around the Irish town of Waterford, where staff are already on short time. The job cuts will reduce the workforce there by more than a quarter, to 1,400.

Waterford has lost £80 million (£75.5 million) over the past four years. Wedgwood, the profitable English arm, is spared the cutbacks. It made an operating profit in 1991 of £10.3 million (its figures are converted into Irish currency for reporting purposes); Waterford lost £12 million. The combined group would have broken even but exceptional items pushed it £5.2 million into the red.

Interim figures for the first half of 1992 are due in about three weeks' time. Under London Stock Exchange rules governing the release of price-sensitive information, the group refuses to say how sales have gone so far; they dropped by 5 per cent last year.

The shares were unchanged yesterday at 20p.

Waterford took over Wedgwood in 1986 but operations were split into two businesses, operating independently, at the end of 1990. There has been no dividend since 1988.

Waterford has been working a short week for the past two years to balance supply and demand. Some staff working only three days will move on to a full week as colleagues leave, so they will be better off. The hope is that some cuts will be achieved by voluntary redundancy.

The immediate reaction of Ireland's Amalgamated Transport and General Workers' Union was anger but not surprise. The union is particularly concerned at the sourcing of products abroad, particularly imports from Germany and Slovenia.

A Waterford spokesman said no percentage figure had been fixed for the pay cuts. It would be subject to negotiation but would affect everyone "from the chief executive to the postroom boy".

Creditors of O&Y cautious on offer

By Angela Mackay

CREDITORS of Olympia & York Developments responded cautiously yesterday to the company's restructuring proposals to meet obligations on its \$1.1 billion debt.

Bankers were pleased by a pledge from the Reichmanns, the Canadian company's founders, stating the family was prepared to surrender voting control of the company. The family also offered to transfer its 20 per cent interest in O&Y's US real estate operations, which are not facing bankruptcy, and ownership of Canadian properties worth more than C\$100 million.

Some lenders were concerned that the individually packaged plans offered to 27 of the group's creditors did not treat all fairly. The "plan of compromise and arrangement" was filed overnight with Canadian courts but will not be finalised for several months.

It does not request new funds but provides that debt maturities applying to project lenders will be extended by five years with O&Y receiving a management fee for operating core office buildings. Other lenders will initially receive 49 per cent of O&Y Development's equity. At the end of the five year period, any remaining unsecured debt would be converted into additional equity not exceeding 80 per cent of the company.

Gerald Greenwald, O&Y's president, said the company was close to agreement with lenders to five of the company's 11 biggest Canadian projects. The plan does not affect Canary Wharf in London's Docklands.

Ratner dazzles no longer

An eighties hero who made cheap jewellery into an impulse buy has been humbled, says Neil Bennett

HARDSHIP and adversity do not rest easily on Gerald Ratner's shoulders. The man who once dazzled the country with his showy style of retailing is struggling to accept that the company he created is being kept alive by hard-nosed financial management and the goodwill of its banks.

Mr Ratner sat sullenly during an interview yesterday in the office of Morgan Grenfell, the group's merchant bank, as he faced questions on what went wrong. James McAdam, Ratner's recently appointed chairman, did most of the talking while Mr Ratner dozed on a notepad, pausing only for an occasional glower.

He spoke little when he did, it was to admit mistakes. One blunder was Ratner's decision to offer 25 per cent discount vouchers in the final days before Christmas last year. This depressed the group's margins but failed to provide the expected boost to sales. "It was a panic measure that did not work," he said.

Mr Ratner was more reticent about his fateful speech to the Institute of Directors' annual conference in April last year, when he described one of the group's products as "total crap".

The remark has hung around Mr Ratner's neck like an albatross and the group admits it contributed to the 24 per cent slide in Ratner's sales. Mr Ratner has said that any reference to the speech "crucified" him. Yesterday, he fended off all references to it, although Mr McAdam claimed that its effect on the business had been exaggerated: recession had been more damaging.

The £122 million loss is a hard hurt of events for Mr Ratner, who initiated the group's headlong expansion when he took over his father's jewellery business in 1984. In a few years he turned jewellery retailing upside down and created a vast new market for affordable, glitzy accessories. The Earrings and necklaces in his shops were cheap enough to be impulse



High street revolution: Gerald Ratner turned jewellery retailing upside down.

purchases in a rainy lunch hour and regular sales drove prices even lower.

As the range developed, Mr Ratner spread his name across the country with a series of acquisitions. He bought H Samuel and Ernest Jones in a bid to move up

At the start of last year, Mr Ratner was one of the last whizz-kids of the eighties who had not fallen from grace. One fateful speech, the ever-deepening recession and the group's high debts have put paid to that.

The decline in the group's

In a fatal speech last year, he described one of the group's products as 'crap'. The remark contributed to a 24 per cent slide in turnover

market, but the new shops looked like Ratners with different colours.

Today, the group has more than 30 per cent of Britain's jewellery sales. In 1987, Mr Ratner began expanding through acquisitions in America, too; the group is now the second largest jeweller there.

fortunes but not only hurt Mr Ratner's pride. He owns 790,000 shares, which at their height were worth more than £1.8 million. Today, the share price has fallen to 12p, valuing Mr Ratner's stake at less than £100,000 and rendering his executive share options worthless. At least he

remains chief executive, although he relinquished the role of chairman to James McAdam, the former deputy chairman of Coats Viyella, in January.

Analysts say the two have managed to strike up a reasonable working relationship and that Mr Ratner can devote his time to what he does best — merchandising jewellery to the masses.

He promises that a new Ratners will emerge from the trauma. "The pile-it-high, sell-it-cheap approach is not appropriate for the nineties," he said. "From now on, we will focus on service, quality and exciting new products."

How he will come through is another matter. Yesterday, it seemed that the slump in the business had deflated his charm and infectious enthusiasm for good.

Lloyd's starts building its new-look council

THE restructuring of senior management of Lloyd's, the insurance market, began yesterday with a request for nominations for the five vacancies on the smaller ruling council. Under recommendations of the Morse working party report, the size of the council is to be reduced from 28 to 16 by January 1 1995. Phase one involves eight of the current 12 working members of the council standing down, including David Coleridge, the current chairman, and John Grieg and Richard Hazell, deputy chairmen.

Elections this year will be for four working members and one external member. One of the elected working members is almost certain to be David Rowland, chairman of the Sedgwick broking group, who has been nominated by Mr Coleridge to serve as the next chairman of Lloyd's. Under current legislation, Mr Rowland must first be elected as a working member of the council. Results will be announced on November 25.

Lex import deal ends

LEX Service said that Volvo Car Corp, the AB Volvo subsidiary, will take over importing Volvo cars and parts into the Irish Republic from Lex. The deal will prematurely end Lex's import concession. Earlier this year, Volvo took over Lex's UK import concession, Volvo Car Ireland, a new company, will distribute Volvo cars in the Irish Republic using the existing dealer network. Staff at Lex's VOCS Ireland will transfer to the new company. Completion of the agreement is expected before the end of the month, subject to merger approval by the European Community.

Sell-offs lift Electrolux

ELECTROLUX, the Swedish home appliance maker, reported a first half profit of 758 million krona (£74 million) after net financial items, exceeding analyst expectations of around 646 million. In the first half last year, it made a Skr917 million profit. Results this time included a 184 million krona profit from sales of some commercial service units. "Excluding this, the result after financial items increased 3 per cent," Electrolux said. There is no full-year profit forecast but "Uncertainty regarding market trends during the second half has increased in recent months."

Moran is suspended

MORAN Holdings, an obscure company with interests in tea production and freight forwarding, has been brought to its knees by an unwise foray into property development. Shares in the thinly traded company were suspended yesterday morning before a statement confirming that the group has applied to be placed in the hands of administrators from Touche Ross. The company has received a proposal from a third party about a capital reconstruction scheme, which has been recommended by the board of Moran.

Northamber loss grows

PROVISIONS against stock and debtors helped to push Northamber, the computer distributor, into a £2.7 million pre-tax loss in the year to April (£1.6 million loss). The dividend is 0.5p (2.5p) but the group ended the year debt-free and with £1.5 million in cash. The shares fell 2p to 41p. David Phillips, chairman, said: "The very difficult conditions continued to affect our performance during the traditionally better second half." The improvement in total sales to £93.1 million (£90.1 million) was a sound performance, he said.

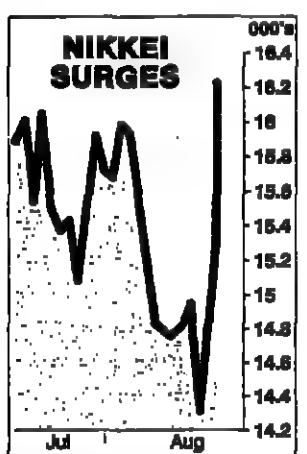
Gatt talks hope

ARTHUR Dunkel, director general of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (Gatt), said there was "still hope" for the long delayed Uruguay Round multilateral world trade talks. After meeting Marcílio Marques Moreira, Brazilian economy minister, and Celso Lafer, foreign relations minister, he said: "It would be inconceivable that the negotiations should not be successful." Mr Dunkel is in Brazil on a three-day visit to meet leading government officials. (Reuter).

GM cuts output

PESSIMISM about the pace of the American recovery is believed to have prompted General Motors to cut car and truck production by 100,000 in the final three months of this year. GM, America's largest carmaker, which is slowly crawling out of the red, declined to comment, but says production between October and December will be higher than last year's 673,000. However, industry sources say that figure is 100,000 below what GM had planned to produce when it drew up fourth-quarter production plans in June.

Nikkei sustains three-day rally with rise of 950



TOKYO stocks extended their rally to a third consecutive day yesterday, sending the Nikkei average up 949.12 points, or 6.22 per cent, to end at 16,216.88.

Prices surged on technical and investment trust buying prompted by government moves to rescue the market, brokers said. An estimated 430 million shares were traded. The broader first section Topix index was up 84.76 points, or 7.28 per cent, to 1,248.53.

The Nikkei has gained 1,907.47 points since Tuesday, when the government

disclosed measures intended to counter a big share sale by banks and to restore confidence in Japan's financial system. Yesterday marked the second-largest Nikkei rally in a single day this year.

A foreign broker said: "The higher the Nikkei goes, the harder it is to remain sceptical about the market having hit bottom. The rally becomes self-fulfilling as it forces people to cover their short positions."

Brokers said one key to the rally was a local newspaper report that life insurers, the market's biggest institutional investors, planned to set up a

company to buy up shares. This speculation comes after an idea from the finance ministry to create a unit to buy real estate held by banks as collateral against their non-performing loans. Brokers said that support for the idea from Yasushi Mieno, governor of the Bank of Japan (BoJ), on Wednesday also fuelled the rally.

They said relatively light volume and an absence of sellers helped exaggerate the rally. "The market's general trend seems to be bottoming out, but we cannot be sure until the market runs into

some heavy selling pressure and shows that it is able to absorb it," said Kenzo Doi, an analyst at Kokusai Securities.

Another factor is the economic package the government is expected to announce next week. Toranobu Sugai, of Lehman Brothers, said: "People have high expectations that the package will contain some more good news for the market." Economists said expectations of a credit easing by the bank were enhanced by July's record low money supply growth.

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RECENT ISSUES

Biribay (100)	92	Telegraph (325)	290
Broadgate Inv Trust (100)	101	Thames 1000 Smr Co's Wts 14	
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Dwyer A	19		
Euro Smr Cos Utr (300)	470		
Finbury Smr Cos 0 Pst 147			
HSBC 75p	316		
Kiwort Endt Pcy (100)	100		
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TR Technology Units 1700			
Taunton Cider 10p (140)	164		

RIGHTS ISSUES

Beckenham Sp n/p (9)	4
Cavendish 1p n/p (6)	4
Channel 5p n/p (20)	4
Cray Electronics n/p (61)	14
Worthington 10p n/p (114)	14

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:		FALLS:	
Williams Holdings	250p (+7p)	Hartstone	154p (+15p)
Wellcome	822p (+20p)	RMC Group	480p (-9p)
TI	278p (+7p)	CE Health	239p (-12p)
Reuters	1044p (+11p)	Booker	378p (-8p)
Rank Org	536p (+9p)	Wills Corroon	156p (-14p)
Inchcape	403p (+17p)	BAT	730p (-14p)
Reed Int	480p (+12p)	Rediff Colman	575p (-8p)
Antilagasta	640p (+7p)	SKF B	900p (-12p)
Independent	353p (+15p)	Sebe	806p (-7p)
Liberty Life	675p (+17p)		
Sherwood Group	123p (+11p)		

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Hey Rocco, I see your handicap is down from 16 to 12 and your swing looks better than ever." The golfer said. "That's just as well," Rocco Forte replied. "Because the way our share price is falling, I might have to turn to this to make a living..."

Business - The Sunday Times tomorrow

Last lap approaches in Cowie bid for Henlys

UNLIKE a second-hand car lot where customers can hold out for yet another offer, September 1 is "time" for T. Cowie's hostile bid for fellow motor trader Henlys Group. Cowie's offer, as Tempus on June 30 suspected it would, was sweetened on August 13 by an element of cash, and the final offer of seven-for-one, or one Cowie, plus 40p cash for every two Henlys shares, values each Henlys share at 85.4p on the paper bid, or 81p on the part cash bid.

Cowie shares traded at 122p yesterday. Henlys shares traded at 70p — a price level which is suggesting that Cowie might not get away with it.

There is, however, strong reasoning why Cowie should win the day.

Cowie launched its bid when Henlys was seen to be on its knees. Profits had already turned into losses in the 1991 financial year, and that year's distribution had been cut from 4.5p to 3p a share. Henlys then signalled that there were more bad times just around the corner, and its shares plunged 22p to 55p.

Henlys was ripe to be kicked by T. Cowie for a variety of alleged management failures, while Cowie was able to justify itself with a strong record and with brighter prospects. Cowie

has recently reported a 56 per cent advance in 1992 interim pre-tax profits to £12.1 million, has raised its half-time dividend from 1.5p to 2p a share, and has now forecast a total 1992 distribution of not less than 6.25p a share (£8.75p a share paid in 1991).

Henlys forecasts that its 1992 dividend will be held at 3p a share, that it will break-even in the second half, and that the real benefits of rationalisation already in progress will become increasingly evident in 1993 and beyond.

The thrust of the message from Robert Wood, chief executive of Henlys, is: Do not give up your inheritance to Cowie now when the rewards of patience will one day be yours.

Uncertain stock markets and dismal economic outlooks do not, however, engender patience, and it is hard to argue with the immediate capital appreciation and the sharp rise in dividend income that will accrue to shareholders who accept Cowie's bid.

If one group has to be chosen as having the better exposure and the greater potential to benefit from an eventual upturn across the broad motor sector, then it has to be Cowie. Shareholders of Henlys who exchange their paper for T. Cowie should not be disappointed.



Clock is running: Michael Doherty, Henlys chairman left, and Robert Wood

Stores

IT WOULD be easy to overestimate the trauma at Ratners as a pointer to the fortunes of the retail sector generally. In truth, Ratners ran out of options long ago. The collapse of its share price ruled out any hope of an equity issue, even if there had been any residual enthusiasm for the stock after

the self-inflicted wounds of the recent past. The banks have held the whip hand for some time, but there was little chance they would withdraw support. They will do far better by allowing Ratners to trade through the Christmas period when the bulk of profits arise and the sewage cost cutting programme should bring a return to profitability in the the 1993-4 financial

year. The Ratners rescue underlines the self-evident reality that times are hard in the high street. It does not indicate deterioration. Stores groups have been working in austerity mode against a background of weak consumer confidence. But staff costs are rising slowly now and the rental inflation of recent years is all but worked out of the system. Until demand recovers,

the low risk stocks, such as M&S, Boots and GUS, will continue to be favoured. Sooner or later, though, the sector will see some bargain hunting among its weaker vessels. For they will become the recovery shares everyone will want once the economy has turned. The fall from grace on Wall Street of last year's darlings, pharmaceuticals, in favour of cyclical is a process which will occur in some form in London at an early recovery phase in the next stock market cycle, with some demand for shares like Burton, among the worst sufferers in the downturn.

Burton has been lending cash and there may be a modest outflow in 1992-3 too, but the property risks have been capped. Cost pressures are easing slowly and though profits will be minimal in 1991-2, they are highly geared to extra volumes. At 33p, the shares have done nothing since the 1991 rights issue at 30p. They will become a speculative recovery stock in the medium term.

MFI is another bottom fishing stock. Modestly rated but still unmoved through its exposure to the massively depressed housing market, its vertical integration almost guarantees a sustained price advantage and gearing is falling sharply. Worth buying at 115p on a sub-market earnings multiple of 12.

سكاي نيوز

BUSINESS PROFILE: Peter Bonfield

Logician who guided ICL back to profit

The man who has run the computer firm for a decade is as calculating as his machines, reports Carol Leonard

If Peter Bonfield, the chairman and chief executive of ICL, were to walk into a room containing a dozen captains of British industry, he would not be recognised. If he were introduced, their interest in him would be fleeting and the impression he left anything but memorable.

Bonfield, 48, bearded, 5ft 10ins tall and with a curious mid-Atlantic accent that betrays his Baldock, Hertfordshire, upbringing, is not a man of the establishment. He would not be accepted by it and he would not care.

Yet, while most establishment businessmen are consoling one another over the state of the economy, the plight of their businesses and the losses they are notching up, Bonfield presides over a profitable company and he is optimistic about the future. His achievements have gone largely unnoticed. He hit the headlines in 1990, when he agreed to sell 80 per cent of ICL, once Britain's sole hope in the international mainframe computer industry, to Fujitsu, the Japanese conglomerate. That publicity was almost entirely negative, with the press, public and politicians criticising him for selling out. Barely 12 months later, though, the *Financial Times* observed: "ICL is displaying a bouncy self-confidence conspicuously lacking among its European competitors."

Bonfield, reminded of the criticism, recalls that most informed observers once doubted that ICL had any future at all. The sale to Fujitsu "was a good deal for the shareholders," he says, "and it was a good deal in terms of making sure ICL had a long-term future. The credibility of the company went up enormously."

When Bonfield joined ICL as an executive director in 1981, leaving a secure job with Texas Instruments to do so, the British company was, he says, almost bankrupt. "It lost £75 million that year. My friends in the States thought coming here was a very odd thing to do. They had never heard of ICL and things were pretty hairy. I saw my

wife twice in the first year. Our customers were beginning to get alarmed that we would not survive and I had to spend a lot of time just going round reassuring them."

He admits that he takes "some degree of pride" in the fact that ICL — which employs 26,000 people — can stand "shoulder to shoulder with any company, anywhere in the world" and says his remaining ambition is to refloat ICL on the UK stock market by 1994-5. "We have said we won't float unless we can get £2.25 a share, which would value the company at £1.2 billion. I want to prove that UK technology companies can be world class. That price would give Fujitsu a 40 per cent return on its investment."

Once that has been achieved, Bonfield says, he will resign. "I've been the chief executive since I was 39 and I don't want to block the way for all the young people in the company." ICL was sold to STC in 1984, before being bought by Fujitsu. STC's new owner, Northern Telecom of Canada, retained a 20 per cent interest. The company made operating profits of £78 million from £1.87 billion of turnover in 1991 and increased its market share in the UK, its largest market. Sales this year have risen to about £2.5 billion and ICL is still on target to make a profit, although Bonfield admits it is suffering from the recession. "My feeling is that the recession is getting worse and we are just fighting like hell to offset its effects... but I think the government has got to hang on in there and let the situation play itself out. We shouldn't devalue or pull out of the EMS, we have just got to slug it out." He says he is not pessimistic about the UK market in the long term.

Bonfield is earnest and committed when he talks about business, even at times intense, and it is easy to see why he gets on well with his Japanese bosses. He regularly works 13-hour days, six or seven days a week, and says he "likes to avoid" holidays. Dr Nigel Horne, a partner at KPMG Management Consultancy and one of Bonfield's



Room at the top: Bonfield, at 48, says he wants to make way for younger people in the company

friends, observes: "The Japanese like people who have done what they said they would do and Peter has always done what he says he will do. He is totally ruthless in an unemotional sense. Very few people would be prepared to draw up a business plan, say these are the consequences, and then see each point in the plan through, one by one, regardless of those consequences, but Peter would. If the plan said a department had to be

closed, Peter would close it, even if his best friend worked in that department. He would never let sentiment get in the way. He is not warm but he is good company and if you went to him with a personal problem he would be marvellous because he would analyse it with cold, clear logic."

Bonfield would not disagree. His father worked for 48 years at the British Tabulating Machinery factory, latterly part of ICL. Bonfield

closed it. "It was the right thing to do, so I just did it. For the people working in the plant it was a bummer, but such is life."

The comment typifies Bonfield's business philosophy. He did not, he says, shed a tear when his father died — "I contained my sadness, some folks are like that, aren't they?" — and he cannot remember when he last cried. "Emotional!" he echoes. "My wife would say, absolutely not. I can't decide if that

is a compliment." He laughs and his eyes twinkle. His sense of humour is deadpan, self-deprecating and often misunderstood. He uses it to disguise social awkwardness.

He knows he does not have a best friend, other than his wife. "After her, you would have to go down a long way," he mutters. Bonfield is a loner, self-sufficient but not shy. He enjoys, but does not need, the company of others. At cocktail parties, he overcomes his inability to make small talk — his manner is unerringly direct — by talking shop. "I sell computers," he says. "I can be very enthusiastic."

He met his wife Josephine when he was a trainee at Texas Instruments, having graduated with an engineering degree from Loughborough. She has become his alter ego. "We are pretty opposite," Bonfield says. "She is more people oriented, very kind and more sensitive than I am. Yes, I can be insensitive. Sometimes I just do not think." Bonfield insists he has no regrets, not even about the fact that he and his wife have had no children. "I'm a fatalist." He means what he says. As a schoolboy at Hitchin Grammar, he naturally assumed he would become an engineer, like his father and two older brothers. He grew up in a semi-detached house, says that there was never much money — "my father went to work on a bike until ten years before he died and a treat was to go to Clacton for our holidays" — but that he always aspired to be a manager. "I always thought I would end up running a big engineering function... I studied hard, was quite serious and very independent." Bonfield is an enthusiastic sportsman, who still spends half an hour a day on a rowing machine and weighs only a stone more than he did at 16; his favourite childhood pursuits were sailing and cycling. "When I was 14, I went on a cycling tour of Italy, with a couple of friends, sleeping under hedges because we had no money. I never told my mother."

Nowadays, he earns a salary of £250,000 and lives in a "cottage" house adjacent to the Thames-side town-path at Shepperton, Surrey, "close to the airport." Since he spends a third of the year abroad, it would be illogical to live anywhere else. He admits that having money has changed him. "I'm not a

millionaire. I've always been a paid employee, but having money does give you security and a different perspective when it comes to risk-taking, both corporately and privately."

Bonfield's track record on taking risks is impressive. He is competitive and likes to win. "I'm ruthlessly persistent. I will never give up. I just go at it another way." He denies, however, that he is simply ruthless, and people who know him well agree. "I do approach things logically, but I also try to be objective and fair. I suppose we are all the result of our parentage and upbringing. My father was logical and my mother has very fixed values about fairness and morality. I try to run the company in a fair way and some people do not like that." He does not have favourites, nor does he frequent male clubs or bars. He refuses, on principle, to belong to any club that would not admit his wife. "I'm not a man's man," he says.

His wife aside, women have had an important influence on Bonfield's life. Ask him about religion and he will tell you about the convent — "we were protestant but it was the best school in the area" — he attended before grammar school. "This, actually, is the root of me," he suddenly declares. "The nuns taught me discipline. You had to have total respect for your elders and yourself. They did not allow any breach of conduct. I was reprimanded all the time, for fighting in the street, all sorts of things. They used rulers on your hands. It is because of that I always start meetings on time, get to work early and honour my commitments." He swears often — "a habit I picked up in Texas" — but never loses his temper.

Yet for someone so controlled, so disciplined, Bonfield is anything but stuffy and pretentious. He does not have the air of reserve so often cultivated by senior managers. He is Pete or Peter to his workforce, will happily stand up in front of "1,000 of my troops" but says he feels uncomfortable giving interviews of this kind. He flinches when asked how he met his wife. "I'm not sure how much I should talk about myself. You don't want to get yourself apart from other people working in the company. It just so happens that I am running the company at this point in time."

If the plan said a department had to close, he'd close it, even if his best friend worked there

WEEK ENDING Joe Joseph

Orwellian double-think as all is not what it appears to be

JUST because something seems contrary or improbable, doesn't mean it is. Things aren't always as fishy as they seem. Still suspicious? Very well, let's assume you're a person, or even a set of statistics, who/which said or did something this past week that seems either to contradict what you said or did before or to confound all the available evidence. Are you:

(a) Peter Mayle, the expansive advertising executive-turned-best-selling-writer who is so crazy for Provence and the French way of life that he has decided to pack his bags and move to California?

(b) Terry Smith, who was head of UK research at UBS Phillips & Drew until he was suspended for showing how even posh companies use creative accounting to make their figures look better?

(c) The gross domestic product, excluding oil and gas extraction, which rose by 0.1 per cent in the second quarter, ending a run of seven consecutive quarterly falls and heralding the technical end of Britain's recession to everyone except the employees of Ford, who have just been put on a three-day week?

(d) Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who was not recalled from holiday for this week's emergency cabinet meeting on Bosnia and Iraq because it was feared that doing so might trigger a sterling crisis, though most people were more worried about John Major's belief that the Chancellor is so marginal to top decision-making that his holiday need not be disturbed?

(e) A journalist writing an article on why it is crazy to buy our flats and houses and burden ourselves with huge mortgages and maintenance bills when we could rent more cheaply, without confessing that you are living in Wandsworth with a spouse, a child and a £100,000 mortgage?

(f) The president of the United States attending the Republican Party's convention in Houston, where you are wooing the country with your



honesty, and integrity, and stressing that neither of these qualities was compromised by your reneging on a vote-winning "no new taxes" pledge and that what was compromised was merely voters' deficient lip-reading abilities? You blame that on sloppy education standards, which you also promise to improve, but you blow it by getting Dan Quayle to write out the promissory note.

(g) A member of the Tarni Church in South Korea — which announced this week that the world will end on October 28 — preparing for doomsday by selling your assets and handing over the proceeds to the Tarni Church, which seems to believe in both the end of the world and the attractions of strong currency reserves?

(h) A financial adviser who is giving the Duchess of York tips on handling her investments and telling pressmen, "It's absurd to suggest there is

anything unprofessional in my friendship with the Duchess. I am, acting in a purely professional manner, when all of a sudden one of the smaller newspapers publishes snaps of you bouncing on the Duchess and sucking her toes? You can see how easy it is for appearances to deceive, why those not-bright enough to read a situation properly can come away suspecting they have witnessed humbug and Orwellian double-think.

People who have nothing better to do with their time than cook snooks think that just because you're decamping to California, you didn't really mean what you said in your two books about them having to bury you in Provence because you love the place so much. And just because the financial accounts say your company is in good shape doesn't necessarily mean that it isn't as watertight as a colander. And if Norman Lamont can carry on sunbath-

ing, why should that mean Mr Major doesn't hold him in the highest regard? And just because Texan millionaire John Bryan is canoodling with the Duchess of York on a sunbed, doesn't mean that he is not giving her the smartest possible financial advice.

Those in the City who have been sniggering at Mr Bryan's advice do not seem to realise that in Texas they are far ahead of Britain when it comes to financial regulation. What the SEC imposes today in America, SIB will impose on Britain tomorrow. Mr Bryan was conforming fully to current American practice for independent investment advisers. For those British financial advisers who like to stay one step ahead of the competition, here is a preview of current US best practice.

If your client asks for advice on offshore gifts, prop him up against a filing cabinet and peck his cheek. If he asks for details of gifts with suspiciously high returns, tell him you're not that kind of broker.

Life insurance queries must always be dealt with topless, preferably lying down and, if possible, sharing a cigarette with the client. (SEC footnote: the cigarette is not compulsory, but is regarded as a signal of long-term commitment by both sides.)

Endowment or repayment mortgage? Make clear the rival benefits of the two options by getting undressed and lying on top of your client. Then whisper the advice into the client's ear, endowment in the left ear, repayment in the right. This helps to keep the alternative facts and figures separate.

Stocks and shares advice should be dispensed while holding hands with clients and losing yourself in their eyes. Long bonds are best left to experts.

So in future, please don't be so suspicious. And always remember that sucking a client's toe is often the best way to build confidence. Among top-class financial advisers, there's one born every minute.

De Beers discusses Namibia mine theft

By COLIN CAMPBELL
MINING CORRESPONDENT

DE BEERS, which last week said diamond smuggling from Angola was running at between \$400 million and \$500 million, yesterday publicly admitted that there has been on-going theft at its CDM diamond mine in Namibia.

Julian Ogilvie Thompson, De Beers chairman, is heading a De Beers team in talks with Namibian officials that concern "restructuring arrangements".

One aspect of the negotiations, which are being conducted in confidence, is an eventual equity participation by Namibia in De Beers' mine, whose operations stretch along the Namibian coastline in an area known as the Sperrgebiet, or "forbidden territory".

Rough diamonds are driven by wind and current on to land from the sea, and the area is open enough for rough diamonds to be found on the beach and in the rocks. The entire area — the surrounding desert, the sea and air space — is effectively sealed, but is not impervious to theft.

De Beers has historically paid substantial cash rewards for stones handed in to its mine officials.

Mr Ogilvie Thompson said he welcomed the government's support in reducing theft, which, he added, had unfortunate effects on De Beers' on government revenues, and on Namibia's foreign exchange earnings.

De Beers has not given any estimate on the value of rough diamonds it believes have been stolen from CDM, though there have in recent years been several successful prosecutions for illicit diamond buying.

Sam Nujoma, the president of Namibia, said that in "hammering out new arrangements with De Beers", he was "instructed Namibian officials to remain within the bounds of the constitution and the law at all times, and to be fair to the other party [De Beers]."

US may raise tariffs on China exports

Peking: The US prepared a list of \$3.9 billion of Chinese exports which could incur tariffs after trade talks between the two countries ended with little progress yesterday.

Ira Wolf, America's assistant trade representative for China and Japan, speaking after three days of talks, said significant differences re-

mained on access to China's markets. He was expected to announce a list of Chinese goods which could be charged with tariff increases of up to 100 per cent unless agreement is reached by Washington's October 10 deadline.

"This is the largest such list the United States has ever published," he said. The talks

were part of a year-long US effort to force China to dismantle barriers or face retaliation under US trade laws.

The two sides are due to meet for at least two more rounds of talks before the deadline. The disagreement strikes at the heart of China's policy of building economic growth on exports (Reuter)

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Sam Nujoma, the president of Namibia, said that in "hammering out new arrangements with De Beers", he was "instructed Namibian officials to remain within the bounds of the constitution and the law at all times, and to be fair to the other party [De Beers]."

Bush speech lifts prices

earlier risen as high as 3,320. □ Hong Kong — Shares recovered moderately on technical factors after Thursday's 139-point plunge. The Hang Seng index gained 27.7 points to 5,509.39. (Reuters) Owing to technical difficulties, prices shown are Thursday night's close.

Bank

150

13

Journal of Management Studies, 19(6), 701-718.

100

Owning up



Owned by letter. Photo by [illegible]

WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 22 1992

Edited by Lindsay Cook

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- LETTERS 20
- CRITICAL SURRENDER 21

Hindering help for homeless

Matching homeless people with empty properties is difficult enough without banks, building societies and insurance companies creating further obstacles. Private landlords and local authorities are reporting that lenders are refusing loans when they take in tenants on social security and try to give them long leases.

Insurance companies have already come under fire from the government and landlords for making it difficult and expensive to get cover for buildings in which there are short-term tenants or those receiving benefits. This can happen when the buildings are owned by private landlords or local authorities.

Estate managers letting properties to local authorities say that banks and other lenders are reluctant to lend against homes that are being bought to house local authority tenants. But, unlike insurers, lenders want tenancies to be short. They do not want tenants with three-year leases even though rent is paid by the local authority.

What insurers and lenders have in

common, however, is an irrational mistrust of tenants receiving benefits. It makes it worse that insurers will not admit that they discriminate against such tenants. They say that they are a high risk because they are short term, with little incentive to look after property. Those trying to find cover are increasingly asked if their tenants are on benefits. If the answer is "yes" they are refused.

Private landlords are having cover withdrawn. One leading insurance company wrote to the owner of a Brighton guest house telling him "as soon as we at head office became aware that your guest house was taking in DSS tenants we exercised our option under the policy and wrote to you... advising that all cover will cease...".

Lenders are more forthcoming. One property company that buys property to let to local authorities for their tenants was told by lenders that



LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

"they do not trust people on social security to treat the property well".

With unemployment figures increasing, involving people who would never have expected to claim dole, this is an absurd attitude. Just because someone loses their job and cannot afford their mortgage it does not mean they instantly start spraying walls with graffiti or breaking the windows. Many people housed by local authorities are working but lenders and insurers take fright at the idea of "council tenants".

Financial institutions need to be told firmly that they must not hinder

private or public sector efforts to find homes for people despairing of ever having a roof over their heads.

Unconcerned

The majority of Pearl investors should at last know how much their policies were worth at the end of last year. After a three-month delay, the insurer finally got its act together and sent out 2.5 million bonus notices.

Not that the company seemed very concerned by the delay. Not all the

Weekend Money readers who had queried where the documents were have received them yet, despite re-assurance from Pearl this week that they had all been despatched.

Holders of policies nearing maturity wanting to be sure their endowment will pay off the mortgage have been left in limbo while Pearl has given only vague promises to those who have enquired. Usually, the bonus statements are sent out in May for the preceding calendar year. This year, they all went out in mid-August, according to an official.

It was nothing to do with the move to the company's shiny new offices in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, which were officially opened last month, a spokesman said. It was an "operational thing". The company changed the system for distributing statements and this caused a delay.

No sorry, no advertisements to tell Pearl's valued investors that their

statements were delayed so that they did not think they had gone Awol in the post. It really is not good enough. Some policyholders had begun to think the worst of Pearl. They know it was taken over by AMP three years ago and were dreading the arrival of a letter saying it had collapsed.

Those in the know may mock and wonder at such fears but many investors cannot differentiate between an organisation such as Pearl and the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. They have been unnecessarily worried because of the cavalier attitude of an organisation with its roots in home collection that ought to have been able to judge policyholders' feelings better.

Insurance companies have short-changed investors on service for too long. Just because policyholders are captive and face substantial losses if they try to leave poor service behind is no reason to treat them in this could-not-care-less manner. Pearl says the service will be back to normal next year and sounded pretty bored about the 2.5 million policyholders it kept waiting.

Shorter queues, politeness and patience feature in customers' list of requirements

Banks binge on surveys in quest for better service

Lindsay Cook looks at the responses of millions of account holders questioned in attempts to improve branches' image

THE 'S' word is creeping into banking. It is difficult to differentiate between the banks on products and prices, so service is the only area in which they can be competitive, they say.

The increasing number of complaints and the banks' fall from grace in the eyes of the public have also taken effect.

To find out exactly what type of service they should be providing, to put an end to years of ill-feeling, the banks have gone on a binge of surveying. Never before have customers' wishes and opinions had so much influence.

They could even cost some branches their bonuses.

Two million National Westminster customers are being asked for their opinion on their branch, its service and the universe this year and every other year as part of the bank's "customer-satisfaction index".

Last month, Barclays Bank started to find out what one million customers want it to do. Lloyds Bank also chose July to start scoring each of its 1,906 branches on service.

Every six months, 350 or more customers from each branch are sent a questionnaire. Midland extended its questionnaires to all branches in July and plans to ask 450,000 customers in branches and through mailings what they want. TSB has an ongoing tracking programme and writes regularly to all its 7.2 million customers.

So far, Lloyds has discovered that customers put "politeness and patience" at the top of their list of requirements from bank staff. Midland customers, on the other hand, are most concerned about queues.

Lloyds has already programmed the telephone in its head office customer complaints division so that they cannot be put down on customers. Those receiving a muted response from their branch should also be aware that six times a quarter each branch is being telephoned by people posing as customers with enquiries. The more bizarre a genuine customer's enquiry, the more certain the staff will be that they are being checked out.

Midland started using "dummy" customers to visit branches in May. Barclays

also has fake customers doing the rounds of branches and telephoning staff. NatWest is considering checking out staff by telephone and branch visits.

At Lloyds, staff are scored on the speed with which a telephone call is answered — within four rings is the target — and whether the caller is greeted with a salutation, the name of the bank and the location of the office. Staff should also give their names to customers readily and offer to help them.

Next month, Lloyds is ready to go public with the improvements in its service when it launches a new range of television advertisements. Its new queuing regime will be highlighted. The length of time spent in queues is the second most important feature of service, according to Lloyds customers. Its branches are endeavouring to ensure there are never more people queuing than there are tills open.

This means that each customer should feel they are next in line for one of the tills. If the queue gets longer, another till should be opened, then another, until the desired ratio is achieved.

NatWest customers at some central London branches say they want to wait in a queue for less than a minute before they are served. Ian McNiff,

head of quality service at the bank, said: "It is a real challenge to serve customers within a minute. In some branches we would need 50 tills. In the provinces, the expectations might be lower and customers might regard the service as really excellent if they are served within five minutes. We are looking at what we can do to reduce queues and to improve the perception of customers."

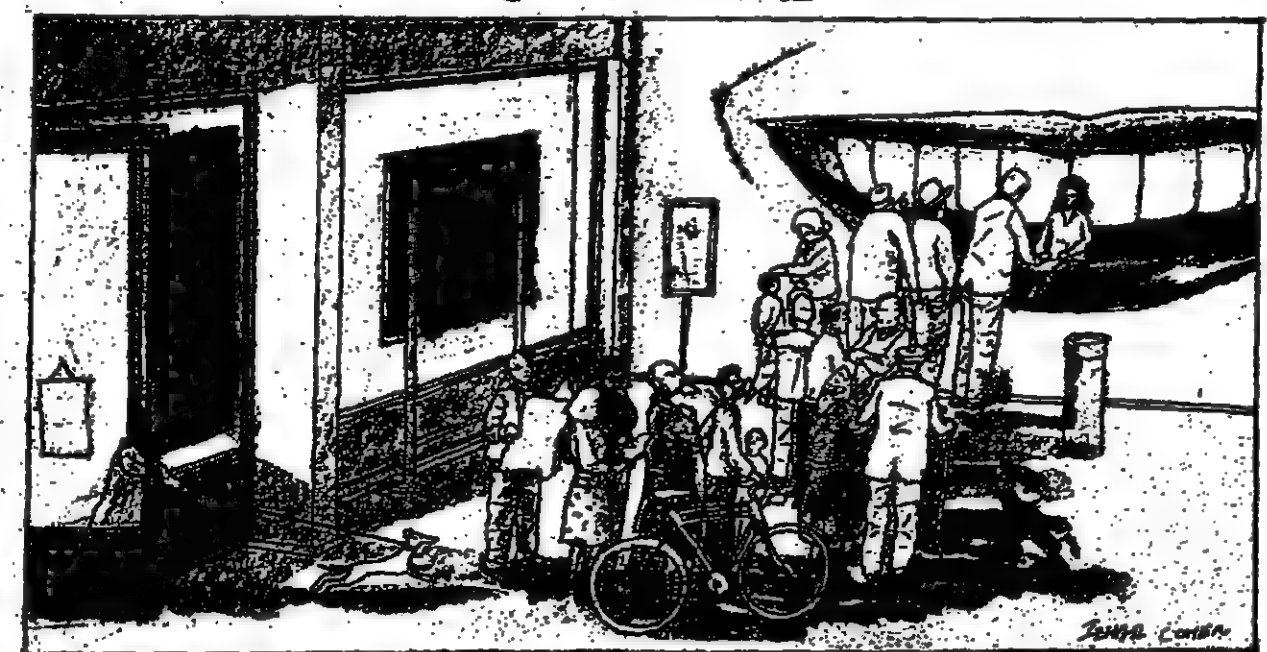
NatWest will be giving branches improvement targets to achieve. Lloyds has already scored each branch and is setting different standards for different areas. In Scotland, it is difficult for any branch to

each branch a score to target. It wants its staff to be driven by the needs and desires of the customers rather than by any threat.

Barclays plans to announce the findings of its survey of 15 per cent of personal customers in the autumn and to detail how it will act to improve its service as a result. Longer opening hours are likely to be one feature.

The bank said: "The first real indications in the branches will be early next year. It has got to go a lot further than a nice smile."

The initial research was carried out by Research International, where Ruth McNiff



get more than 65 per cent — the minimum for all branches — because customers are not given to praising staff. In London, customers mark harshly but are realistic about what improvements can be provided, the bank says. One branch received a negative score but now has a new manager and the only way is up. Those branches that fail to reach 65 per cent on the service quality index each quarter may find it costly.

Clive Kenyon, head of Service Challenge, gave warning: "They will not get any incentive pay for reaching sales targets."

NatWest says it is not giving

says this reveals which areas are important to customers. Heavy revolving doors discourage some customers from entering or make it difficult for them to do so.

The banks are almost looking forward to complaints to deal with. Lloyds, in its guide to staff, says: "If we deal with that complaint quickly and professionally, then the customer's view of the bank will improve greatly. The customer is giving us a second chance to get things right rather than going to another bank. Let's make sure that we turn complaints to our advantage."

It goes on to tell staff not to interrupt customers when they are complaining nor to defend the bank or their colleagues, make excuses or blame the computer.

Each branch has to log all complaints and how they are dealt with on separate forms. A monthly total is sent to an agency for analysis. Mr Kenyon says complaints about loans are highest, at 20 to 25 per cent, almost double those for charges.

Lloyds is working towards a customers' charter that could be launched during the latter half of next year. This would set times for services to be completed. For example, it might set a target of three days to arrange currency or travellers cheques for customers and if they were not in the branch at the appointed hour the bank would forgo its commission.

The bank is also planning to use its computer system to log information that will help it to

improve its service. It should be possible to list on every account details of how customers like to be contacted. Some customers like everything in writing while others ignore letters and prefer a call at their

office. This would make other customers uncomfortable if they thought their colleagues could overhear their personal financial details.

Lloyds says most customers fear a visit from a bank

representative or salesman at home beforehand but afterwards say it is more relaxing than visiting a branch for a meeting.

It is also rationalising its product ranges as a result of the research. The full range of services that customers use should also be added to the computer files in branches.

This should prevent customers receiving letters asking if they have considered saving when they have a savings account with the bank or have refused one already.

Brian Pearce, Midland Bank's chief executive, wrote to all personal customers in June inviting them to reply to him about anything they wanted to bring to his attention. The bank was more than happy that analysis of the first batch of responses revealed that 20 per cent of the customers wanted to compliment the bank. Eighty per cent did not.

Its surveys and use of fake customers should locate branches with problems. The branches will then be largely responsible for suggesting what action is necessary to put things right, Midland says. So

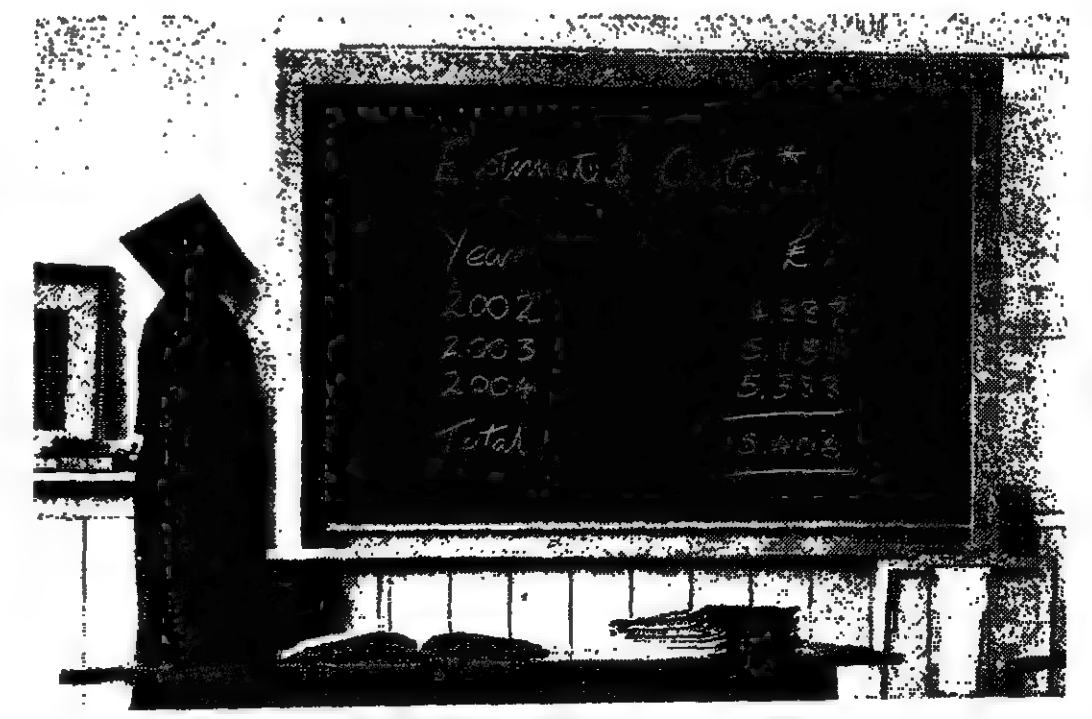
far, the main area of complaint has been queuing. As a result, extra staff have been taken on to cover busy periods, such as lunchtime. On the positive side, Midland customers are happy with the speed with which telephone calls are answered, the friendliness of staff and the availability of managers.

TSB says its customers want better direct communication. This year, some customers will have had four letters already from the bank on its code of practice, new savings products and youth range and to inform customers of charges before they are removed from their account.

Customers also want a higher quality of service in branches and faster processing of applications. As a result of this information, the bank has reduced the application time for credit cards from 15 days to six and is currently offering a 24-hour turnaround on applications for car loans.

Privacy is also important to customers. TSB has, therefore, added 1,000 interview rooms in branches for private discussions.

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Owning up to mistakes is catching on



FINANCIAL institutions once had great difficulty admitting that they had got things wrong. Now they are owning up and are surprised by the results (Lindsay Cook writes). When HBU Samuel discovered it had made a mistake in the way it calculated charges on its personal equity plans, it wrote to the 2,000 customers who had withdrawn their plans after the error happened but before it was discovered and put right, enclosing cheques of between 50p and £100.

Many of the investors were owed only a few pence but the unit trust manager decided that everyone who had suffered a loss should get at least 50p.

It was surprised when large numbers of the investors responded quickly and most were complimentary. One recipient of £38.37 wrote: "It is indeed a rare occurrence today for a company to deal with customers in such a diligent and honest way." Another wrote: "I am tremendously impressed, and will certainly invest with you again when finances permit."

A third, who received 50p, wrote: "My faith in computers and your company has been partially restored."

An investor who received £65 said: "You have proved there are some honest companies and executives still trading."

David Sachon, managing director.

said: "If anyone needed converting to the case that quality customer service is about openness, honesty, accuracy and timely execution, these letters would do that."

National Westminster wrote to all 250,000 gold card customers earlier this month, saying they have been overcharged last month because of computer difficulties. Its 5.5 million credit card customers will receive an insert in their August bills to apologise for errors on transaction dates on their previous statements.

When Lloyds Bank found that 40 of its gold card customers had too much taken from their accounts by direct debit last month they were told the next day that the money had been restored before they knew it had been wrongly taken.

Last month, Lloyds wrote to thousands of customers it had identified as paying too much interest. This had happened because of errors in branches. It meant that customers who had arranged an overdraft facility found themselves paying the much higher interest rate for unauthorised loans. Although the mistakes went back over four years, the amounts involved for personal customers were mostly small. The average payment to the 50,000 business and personal customers was £60.

Converted by letters: David Sachon

Royal

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Postal account popularity grows as societies compete for savers

Cheap to operate
service offers
high rates
and low risk,
Lindsay Cook says

POSTAL accounts are proliferating. The Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society, the first provider of instant access postal accounts in 1989, is launching a postal account with a seven-day interest penalty whenever withdrawals are made. Next month, it is adding telephone withdrawals to its instant access London share account.

The C&G went national with London share in May 1989 and had the market to itself for about 18 months. For savers seeking the best rates with minimum risk, these accounts are usually able to offer a higher return than branch-based ones because they are cheaper to operate. Since the beginning of this week, London share has been paying 9.6 per cent gross (7.2 per cent net) on £2,500 or more. The London deposit account will pay the same on the minimum investment of £5,000, but on £10,000 and above pays 9.9 per cent gross (7.42 per cent net). For sums of more than £25,000 the rate is 10.2 per cent gross (7.65 per cent net).

The interest rates can only be achieved in a year when no withdrawals are made because of the seven-day penalty. It will, therefore, be most useful to longer-term, larger investors. The minimum withdrawal is £250.

A large proportion of savers with the C&G are in the London share account and can be withdrawn quickly and without penalty when more attractive products from National Savings or other societies are launched. Savers using the London share account will be able to withdraw money by telephone by using a personal



On line: staff at the Bradford and Bingley Building Society postal accounts office in Leamington Spa

identification number. A travel money telephone service for travellers cheques and foreign currency from American Express has been added recently.

All London share customers are being informed of the new account. Those wanting more information can telephone free on 0800 272383.

The Britannia Building Society is adding three more accounts to its postal service from Monday, two of which have guaranteed interest rates until the beginning of next year and the other with a fixed rate until the end of next July.

The capital trust account is relaunched, paying 10.4 per cent gross (7.8 per cent net) on a minimum investment of £2,000. Monthly income is available through the monthly account, paying 9.93 per cent gross (7.45 per cent net). Both will hold their rates until next year. The capital trust bond pays 10.3 per cent gross (7.73 per cent net), fixed until July 31, 1993. The minimum investment is £5,000.

At the close of business on Monday, the C&G withdraws

its fixed-rate account, which guarantees until October next year a rate of 10.4 per cent gross (7.8 per cent net).

From Monday, the society has two helplines available. Calls about capital trust bond should be on 0800 252 579 and for the other two accounts on 0800 654 456.

Today, the Scarborough Building Society launches a postal account with a fixed rate of 10.4 per cent gross (7.8 per cent net), guaranteed until January 11. After that, it becomes an instant access account, paying a variable rate.

Northern Rock launched its "go direct" account on August 8. The instant access postal account pays 10.5 per cent gross (7.88 per cent net) on £2,000, 10.7 per cent (8.03 per cent net) on £10,000 and 10.95 per cent (8.21 per cent net) on £20,000.

Birmingham Midshires pays 9.5 per cent gross (7.12 per cent net) on £500, 10.25 per cent gross (7.69 per cent net) on £10,000, 10.45 per cent (7.84 per cent net) on

£50,000 and 10.6 per cent (7.95 per cent net) on £100,000. Savers can opt for a monthly income with a product called the first class instant access account, launched in March.

Bradford & Bingley pays only 2.2 per cent gross on sums up to £1,000. Above that, the rate is 9.2 per cent gross (6.9 per cent net). On £10,000 it rises to 9.9 per cent (7.4 per cent net) and at £25,000 the return is 10.05 per cent (7.5 per cent net).

Bradford & West's instant access Balmoral account pays 10.45 per cent (7.8 per cent net) above £2,500 and 10.9 per cent (8.17 per cent net) on £25,000.

The society also has a fixed-rate bond, launched on August 5, which fixes its savings rate until July 31, 1993. This starts at 10 per cent (7.5 per cent net) on £5,000 and goes up to 10.5 per cent (7.9 per cent net) on £50,000.

Norwich & Peterborough increased the rates on its Postmaster instant access account on Tuesday. This pays

10.25 per cent gross (7.68 per cent net) on £1,000, 10.5 per cent (7.87 per cent net) above £10,000 and 10.8 per cent (8.1 per cent net) above £30,000.

The Building Society Shop in Nottingham offers a bond investing in a range of building societies through Provident Capital. This has an investment minimum of £10,000 and is paying 8.3 per cent net or 8 per cent as monthly income. There are no initial charges and no penalty for withdrawal.

The competitiveness of the postal accounts is pointed up by the return on the Fidelity money market unit trust. In the past, it has tended to pay considerably more than building society accounts by investing large sums in the markets.

The authorised unit trust was paying 9.6 per cent on Thursday (7.2 per cent net). This rate is paid on all investments over £500. Those with £5,000 or more in the fund are offered a cheque book and can pay bills of £250 or more direct from the fund.

Pension negotiations leave a feeling of deception

From Mr C.P. McConnachie Sir, About a year ago I sought a review of my pension from an old employer. The total current pension, arranged by the employer involving three different insurance companies, amounts to about 80 per cent of the State old age pension.

Being a selected old employee I was advised my pension would be increased by 10 per cent. However the increase would apply to only one of the

three insurance company pensions. A minor one of £354 per annum net; thereby an increase of £35.

I am 86 years old, commenced employment in Scotland as an office boy in 1920. May 1932 was transferred to an associated company in tropical West Africa. Retired in 1966 prior to the days of golden handshakes. The 46 years service included 20 years resident in the old White Man's Grave.

In view of my age and the

protracted negotiations, the outcome leaves me with the feeling of being subject to a measure of deception. Although in old age it is less painful.

Have advised the employer and the insurance company not to implement the increase; neither has replied.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES MCCONNACHIE,
48 Albert Road,
Dumfries,
Dumfries and Galloway.

Capital transfer

From Mr Neil Grant Sir, The reason why I recently transferred my modest capital from a building society to National Savings is that I have been caught too often by the building societies' practice of surreptitiously downgrading the terms of the account.

I suspect that I am not alone.
Yours faithfully,
NEIL GRANT,
2 Avenue Road,
Teddington,
Middlesex.

In defence of endowment mortgages

From Mr Derek M. Sinclair Sir, I am an independent financial adviser and have run my own practice for over 20 years. In defence of the endowment mortgage, I would point out an example last week when a client surrendered his 25-year endowment for a sum assured of £48,000 after only 15 years duration as it was calculated that the surrender value was sufficient to pay off his mortgage of £48,000. By adopting the endowment method, he is saving himself ten full years of interest payment.

Furthermore, he moved home during the 15-year per-

iod and transferred his endowment from one property to another thus avoiding the necessity to start a new mortgage and pay capital and interest over a further 25 years.

I need hardly add that life cover was automatically included in the endowment contract for both he and his wife.

Yours faithfully,
D. SINCLAIR,
Thomson Assurance Consultants,
9 Westleigh Court,
Birdhurst Road,
South Croydon,
Surrey.

STUDENT LOANS COMPANY LIMITED NOTICE OF VARIATION OF INTEREST RATE

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Royal to refund 'wrong policy' payments

By Sara McConnell

A COUPLE who were sold a life assurance policy and locked into paying premiums until 2036 when they asked for a seven-year savings plan, this week won a 14-month battle with Royal Life for compensation.

The case of Paul and Carol Wells of Halesowen, West Midlands, demonstrates what can go wrong when investors know what they want and the salesman does not have it available. The Wells' contacted a Royal Life agent in April 1988 because they wanted to save regularly over seven years to give their son, Stefan, then 16, a lump sum. They hoped he would be able to use it towards the deposit for a home. Mrs Wells hoped that if she invested £500 a year for seven years, the lump sum would be more than the £3,500 invested. She did not want life cover for her son, in whose name the money was to be invested.

However, she was sold a unit-linked whole of life policy, the Royal Life regular savings plan. Premiums of £40 a

month, or £480 a year, were scheduled to continue until 2036, when Stefan would be 64. This plan included £17,280 of unwanted and unrequested life cover. Royal explained in January that this is provided "to make the policy qualifying for tax purposes". It added that the surrender value of the policy at January 9, 1992 was £1,279.96. By then, Mrs Wells had paid £2,067 of premiums. The premiums

the rest is invested. At the same time, some of the units bought are cancelled to buy life cover, further diminishing the possibility of growth.

When the paperwork for the policy finally arrived, months later, Mrs Wells was mystified to find that she had been sold a cluster of eight policies. She received no explanation although Royal's agent promised to provide one. Royal said this week that the reason for

the policy was taken out. Since June last year, Mr and Mrs Wells have been in correspondence with the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation, and, more recently, the Insurance Ombudsman, as well as Royal.

Laurio told them it could not pursue the complaint because the policy was taken out three weeks before the Financial Services Act came into force and Laurio did not cover pre-FSA business, although it contacted Royal on the Wells' behalf. The ombudsman said he could not deal with the case until all channels had been exhausted at Royal.

Royal agreed this week that the Wells' had been sold the wrong policy. It has promised to refund their premiums with interest. It said the 14-month delay was because it "wanted to investigate thoroughly". It could not explain why its agent had sold a 16-year-old life cover, nor why he had not carried out a factfind, which, although not a legal requirement, would have been good practice.



Locked in: Paul and Carol Wells faced premiums until 2036

There was no option of cancelling because the cooling off notice did not arrive until nearly three years after the policy was taken out

had increased 10 per cent a year. Far from building up her investment, she had lost money.

Like most life policies, the Royal Life plan is intended to be a long-term investment and the costs of surrendering early are severe because of high upfront charges. All of Mrs Wells' £480 in the first year went on setting up costs. In the second year, 30 per cent of the premium goes on charges and

this "cluster" arrangement was that policyholders could encash one policy out of the eight if they wanted a lump sum and avoid being so badly affected by poor surrender values. But even then, people might not get back what they had put in.

The Wells' did not have the option of cancelling the policy because the cooling off notice did not arrive until March 1991, nearly three years after

Student package extended

By Lindsay Cook
MONEY EDITOR

THE Halifax Building Society is to extend its student package to new students from Wednesday. It will be offered to students aged 18 or over in full-time further education and to all young workers aged 18 to 21.

The package offers £15 worth of shop vouchers and gives interest-free overdrafts up to £300 for students and £100 for young workers. Students can borrow a further £200 at an annual percentage rate of 12.6 per cent and young workers can borrow another £400 at the same rate. The Halifax will be attending freshers' week events in September and October at some universities.

Last week's article "Counting cost of grants and loans" gave an over-optimistic impression of student grants. The grant levels stated were, in fact, the combined total of grant plus maximum student loan for each category. For example, £830 has to be deducted from the maximum grant for London students to give the correct sum of £2,845.

Illness plans left to lapse

INCREASING numbers of policyholders have stopped paying premiums on critical illness plans because of redundancy or other financial problems (Sara McConnell writes). But those who stop paying when their policies have been in force for less than five years are unlikely to get much of their money back.

Such policies pay out a lump sum on diagnosis of critical illnesses, such as cancer, strokes and coronarys. They are, however, life assurance contracts. About half the policies on the market are unit-linked, whole of life insurance policies. Contributions buy units, which are invested in the stock market and should yield some growth as well as pay for protection against critical illnesses. But high, upfront charges erode contributions in the early years, when most of the investment goes into a salesman's commission and other charges.

Laurentian calculated that a non-smoking man, 30 next birthday, putting £30 a month into a standard policy with £34,375 of cover would get back only £413 if he cashed in after five years, although he would have paid in £1,800. Abbey Life, the biggest player in the market, has also seen an increase in numbers of lapsed policies. Abbey calcu-

lated the same man paying £29.40 a month with £45,123 worth of cover would get back £541 if he surrendered after five years, having paid £1,764 in premiums. The surrender value assumes a growth rate of 8.75 per cent a year.

The company this week became the latest to announce new attractions to its policies, admitting that this was partly to encourage people to keep paying their premiums. It has added multiple sclerosis, blindness, loss of limbs and terminal illness (diagnosed as having less than a year to live) at no extra cost to the list of illnesses covered for both new and existing clients. It will also cut premiums for new customers by an average of 10 per cent from September 1.

Existing clients will not receive direct cuts in premiums but less will be deducted from premiums to cover mortality so any cash value will be greater. Lester Young, Abbey Life's product marketing manager, said the main reason for

the cuts was because claims experience had been better than expected.

Laurentian is to add blindness, terminal illness and paralysis to its policy in the new year. It has not yet decided whether to cut costs.

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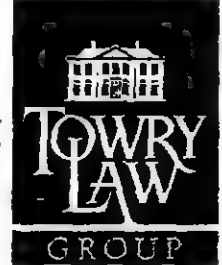
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ROYAL LIFE

LLOYDS Bank and Leeds Permanent Building Society have both cut their rates for savers. The Leeds' rates have been cut by an average of 0.25 per cent, with smaller balances taking the brunt of reductions. Liquid Gold balances of up to £499.99 will now earn 3 per cent net, a cut of 0.38 per cent. Gross rates for the same balances have been cut 0.5 per cent to 4 per cent. The rate on balances between £25 and £2,999.99 in the Tessa Gold account has fallen 0.56 per cent net, or 0.75 per cent gross. Lloyds has cut its rate 0.2 per cent on average, with smaller balances on some accounts being hardest hit. Balances between £5,000 and £10,000 in an investment account will earn 7.10 per cent gross, or 5.3 per cent net, down from 7.40 per cent gross, 5.5 per cent net.

First-time buyers borrowing less than 90 per cent of a property's value from the Chelsea Building Society will receive a further discount of 1.75 per cent off the first-time buyers' rate of 10.65 per cent for the first 12 months of their mortgage. Those borrowing up to 95 per cent of the property's value will receive a discount of 1.25 per cent. They will also get free mortgage payment protection cover

for a year. Cover is compulsory for two further years.

A plan that aims to protect capital investment, but takes advantage of rises in the FT-SE 100 index, has been launched by Hypo Foreign & Colonial. The protected capital plus plan is an open-ended, roll-up fund based in Jersey and will lock in growth from the index every quarter. Investors can cash in their investment at the end of any quarter without penalty. No loss is incurred if the market falls in any quarter. The minimum investment is £5,000.

Anglia Retirement Homes will pay stamp duty for anyone buying a home from it by September 21, extending the stamp duty holiday for a month. Stamp duty has now been officially reimposed and is set at 1 per cent of the price of any home costing more than £30,000.

Eagle Star is offering policyholders discounts of up to 27 per cent on car alarms. The CEL A500 is on offer at £179.99, against a recommended price of £249.88. The CEL 2095 will cost Eagle Star customers £129.99 (£162.74). A Sava Lock steering wheel lock, normally costing £29.95, is on offer at £24.95.

M&G INTERNATIONAL GROWTH PERFORMANCE RECORD

Performance since launch Year ended 31st December	£1,000 Lump Sum		£40 a month	
	Building Society	M&G International Growth	Amount Invested	Building Society
19 Dec 1967	£1,000	£1,000	£40	£40
1967	1,000	973	480	491
1968	1,044	1,510	960	1,008
1969	1,095	1,417	1,440	1,551
1970	1,150	1,325		
1971	1,208	1,822	1,920	2,122
1972	1,267	2,686	2,400	2,720
1973	1,351	2,220	2,880	3,397
1974	1,455	1,456	3,360	4,157
1975	1,561	1,970	3,840	4,961
1976	1,673	1,843	4,320	5,814
1977	1,792	2,271	4,800	6,725
1978	1,909	2,564	5,280	7,663
1979	2,074	3,332	5,760	8,827
1980	2,294	4,891	6,240	10,271
1981	2,510	4,768	6,720	11,740
1982	2,735	5,868	7,200	13,299
1983	2,938	8,135	7,680	14,783
1984	3,170	9,452	8,160	16,449
1985	3,451	9,869	8,640	18,413
1986	3,724	12,585	9,120	20,368
1987	4,013	11,193	9,600	22,447
1988	4,300	13,115	10,080	24,552
1989	4,705	18,362	10,560	27,372
1990	5,214	14,240	11,040	30,838
1991	5,653	17,580	11,520	33,939
31 July 1992	5,887	16,940	11,800	35,628

Notes: All figures include re-invested income net of basic-rate tax. M&G International Growth figures show the return to the investor. The Building Society figures are based on the average rate of a Building Society Share Account (Source: Central Statistical Office - Financial Statistics). The regular savings figures exclude the last payment and all payments are made on the last business day of the month. An investment in M&G International Growth of £1,000 on 31st July 1987 would be worth £1,023 by 31st July 1992. An investment of £40 a month from 31st July 1987 (£2,400) would be worth £2,514 by 31st July 1992 with net income reinvested. Estimated using current interest rate levels. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. You may get back less than you invested.

To: The M&G Group, M&G House, Victoria Road, Chelmsford CM1 1PB. Tel: (0245) 390390 (Business Hours). Please send me a free copy of the latest M&G Handbook including details of how to invest in M&G's range of unit trusts through a lump sum, savings plan or the M&G PEP. NO SALESMAN WILL CALL.

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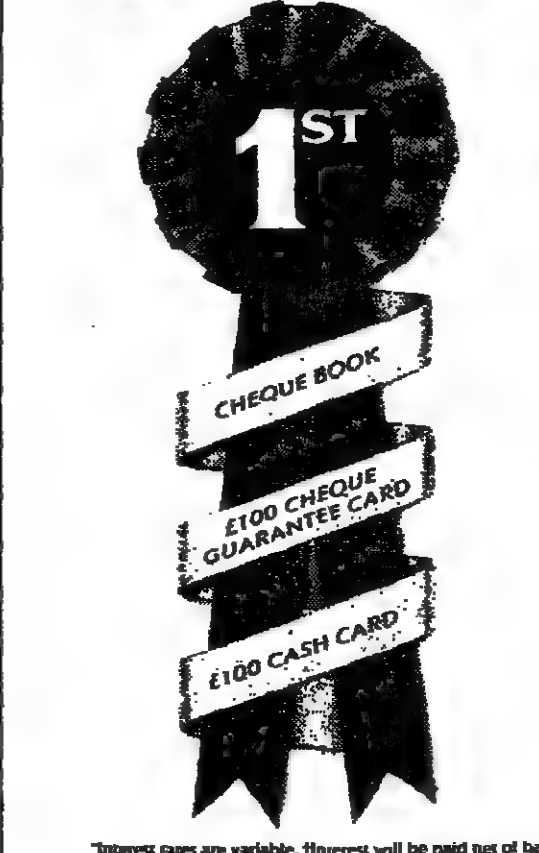
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£10,000 - £19,999	7.50	5.63
£2,500 - £9,999	7.00	5.25

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No	Company	Group	Share	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1	Sh Wale	Electricity	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
2	Vodafone	Telecom	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
3	Shell	Oil, Gas	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
4	British Telecom	Telecom	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
5	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
6	British Petroleum	Oil, Gas	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
7	British Gas	Utilities	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
8	British Steel	Steel	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
9	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
10	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
11	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
12	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
13	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
14	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
15	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
16	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
17	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
18	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
19	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
20	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10

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Please make a note of your daily share for the weekly dividend of £5,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

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1992 High Low Company Price + - % Div % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No	Company	Share	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1	Barclays Bank	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
2	HSBC Bank	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
3	London City	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
4	Midland Bank	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
5	NatWest Bank	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
6	Paragon Bank	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
7	Prudential	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
8	Royal Bank	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
9	Santander	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
10	Trust Bank	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10

BREWERIES

No	Company	Share	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1	Adnams	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
2	Beck's	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
3	Carlsberg	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
4	Guinness	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
5	Heineken	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
6	King	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
7	Labatt	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
8	Miller	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
9	Newcastle	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
10	Stout	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10

BUILDING, ROADS

No	Company	Share	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1	Amey	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
2	Bechtel	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
3	Bechtel	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
4	Bechtel	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
5	Bechtel	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
6	Bechtel	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
7	Bechtel	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
8	Bechtel	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
9	Bechtel	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
10	Bechtel	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10

Best levels not held

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began August 10. Dealings ended yesterday. Contango day August 24. Settlement day September 1. Forward bargains are performed on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle price.

1992 High Low Company Price + - % Div % P/E

ELECTRICITY

No	Company	Share	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1	British Electric	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
2	British Electric	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
3	British Electric	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
4	British Electric	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
5	British Electric	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
6	British Electric	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
7	British Electric	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
8	British Electric	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
9	British Electric	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
10	British Electric	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10

FINANCE, LAND

No	Company	Share	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1	British Finance	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
2	British Finance	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
3	British Finance	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
4	British Finance	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
5	British Finance	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
6	British Finance	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
7	British Finance	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
8	British Finance	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
9	British Finance	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
10	British Finance	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

No	Company	Share	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1	British Finance	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
2	British Finance	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
3	British Finance	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
4	British Finance	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
5	British Finance	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
6	British Finance	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
7	British Finance	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
8	British Finance	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
9	British Finance	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
10	British Finance	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10

FOODS

No	Company	Share	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1	British Food	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
2	British Food	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
3	British Food	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
4	British Food	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
5	British Food	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
6	British Food	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
7	British Food	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
8	British Food	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
9	British Food	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
10	British Food	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10

HOTELS, CATERERS

No	Company	Share	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1	British Hotels	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
2	British Hotels	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
3	British Hotels	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
4	British Hotels	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
5	British Hotels	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
6	British Hotels	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
7	British Hotels	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
8	British Hotels	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
9	British Hotels	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
10	British Hotels	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10

INDUSTRIALS

No	Company	Share	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1	British Industries	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
2	British Industries	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
3	British Industries	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
4	British Industries	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
5	British Industries	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
6	British Industries	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
7	British Industries	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
8	British Industries	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
9	British Industries	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
10	British Industries	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10

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1	British Investment	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
2	British Investment	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
3	British Investment	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
4	British Investment	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
5	British Investment	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
6	British Investment	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
7	British Investment	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
8	British Investment	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
9	British Investment	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
10	British Investment	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10

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From your Portfolio Platinum card check your daily share price movements on this card for the week and check it against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Claim rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Share	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1	Sh Wale	Electricity	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
2	Vodafone	Telecom	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
3	Shell	Oil, Gas	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
4	British Telecom	Telecom	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
5	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
6	British Petroleum	Oil, Gas	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
7	British Gas	Utilities	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
8	British Steel	Steel	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
9	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
10	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
11	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
12	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
13	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
14	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
15	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
16	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
17	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
18	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
19	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
20	British Airways	Air	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily share for the weekly dividend of £5,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN

Three readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr M Doyle, of Haywards Heath, Mr G Dwyer, of Worthing, and Mr P Osborn, of Leeds, each receive £566.66.

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1992 High Low Company Price + - % Div % P/E

LEISURE

No	Company	Share	Price	Div	Yield	P/E
1	British Leisure	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
2	British Leisure	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10
3	British Leisure	100	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10

**FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN CAPE TOWN**

□ **Lagunya**, the Western Province league team at whose ground in the black township of Nganya, the South Africans trained yesterday, are to tour Britain in November. They will play three games in Wales and one in London on November 14, when England play South Africa at Twickenham.

Green party: Walk In The Park strolls home in her green colours to capture the claiming event at Sandown yesterday

Afterwards, Hanbury, who had also won a group race at Deauville earlier in the week when Twaifeaj collected the Prix Meautry, said: "He's improving and thoroughly appreciating the better going. We'll now keep him in reserve for the Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot in September." ■

Although this was a sound staying performance, Ladbroke's were prepared to offer 40-1 against White Crown in the 1993 Derby.

The riding honours of the afternoon went to Damien Biggs, who landed a double on Jommelli, his fiftieth winner of the campaign, as Ideal Candidate.

8.00 (1m 4f) 1, Janest (W F Swinburn, 8-
f-lev); 2, Sherings (9-1); 3, Etquette (7-
Anna Corners 9-4 f-lev. 11 ran. 296, 2L
Scott. Tot: £3.50; £1.50, £2.50, £2.10. O
£26.50 CSF: £24 18.
Placepot: £348.70.

BY JANE ELLIOTT

no in Rome

later this year with Kevin Kelley, the American, who maintained his undefeated record and No. 1 world ranking with a points victory over Antonio Hernandez in Atlantic City on Thursday. But first, Hodkinson must defend his title against Fabrice Benichou, of France, in Toulouse on September 12. It will be Hodkinson's second defence since taking last November

GOLF: British women's amateur strokeplay championship (Frlford Heath).
MODERN PENTATHLON: Women's World Cup (Corby).
SHOOTER: UK championship qualifying rounds (Blackpool).

MODERN PENTATHLON: Women's World Cup (Corby).
SNOOKER: UK championship qualifying rounds (Blackpool).
TENNIS: Midland Bank national junior championship (Milton).

1990

Drum Taps heads strong British raid on Deauville

1124	1231	1232	1233	1234	1235	1236	1237	1238	1239	1240	1241	1242	1243	1244	1245	1246	1247	1248	1249	1250	1251	1252	1253	1254	1255	1256	1257	1258	1259	1260	1261	1262	1263	1264	1265	1266	1267	1268	1269	1270	1271	1272	1273	1274	1275	1276	1277	1278	1279	1280	1281	1282	1283	1284	1285	1286	1287	1288	1289	1290	1291	1292	1293	1294	1295	1296	1297	1298	1299	1300
1124	1231	1232	1233	1234	1235	1236	1237	1238	1239	1240	1241	1242	1243	1244	1245	1246	1247	1248	1249	1250	1251	1252	1253	1254	1255	1256	1257	1258	1259	1260	1261	1262	1263	1264	1265	1266	1267	1268	1269	1270	1271	1272	1273	1274	1275	1276	1277	1278	1279	1280	1281	1282	1283	1284	1285	1286	1287	1288	1289	1290	1291	1292	1293	1294	1295	1296	1297	1298	1299	1300

—

1

Hooked on a sport where time just passes you by

Brian Clarke enjoys a day in the life of an angler, and finds that it offers a stream of escape from the activities of the world

It is no coincidence that angling is the most popular participant sport. Indeed, it has so many attractions, can appeal on so many levels at so many ages to so many temperaments, that it could hardly be otherwise.

One of the sport's special qualities is that it can occur: it has the ability to absorb and transport utterly, regardless of place and time and circumstance. I saw the spell cast three times on the same day just recently.

In the morning I fished one of the loveliest stretches of trout stream in England. For 100 years and more, it has been crafted for fly-fishing. The water has been controlled and channelled, the banks have been shaped and manicured. Indolent trout lie out everywhere, in full and provocative view.

They are expensive fish. My host pays what amounts to thousands of pounds a year to fish there. Yet, to the amusement of my friend and the astonishment of the keeper, I spent part of my time fishing for coarse fish. They come, give or take, at around ten to a penny.

From the moment I reached the huge backwater at the bottom of the fishery, I was mentally lost. The banks there had been left to grow wild as a screen against a right of way. The river there had been left to grow wild, also.

The water, when I managed to make my way to it, was brilliantly clear. High fronds of weed, lush and green, orchestrated a faint current. In a break in the weed, a shoal of fish was suspended, mid-water. One of them turned and winked soft silver light. It was a pristine fish, a roach; and on that instant I was ten-years-old again. Hiawatha stalking.

For a long time, I forgot my rod; for far longer still, I forgot the trout. The more I looked, the more I melted into the time lagoon at my feet.

A gang of large perch, broad-shouldered and flashy, shrugged and muscled their way down the pool like wide boys out on the razzle. A shoal of bream, a herd almost, appeared from the base of the lily-pads and grazed and cropped the bottom, rummaged in the silt, stirred up cumulus clouds of brown. A chub, a monstrous fish, bronze and barrel-fat, slid purposefully by.

And time passed. The sun burned, the trout dimpled, the landscaped park lay splendid before me, all unremarked. It was the roach that absorbed. Of course, I had to give them a try.

There was no room to cast. The bushes behind beckoned my rod, the reeds in front would magnify any stray hook. I had to dabble.

I parried the reeds as carefully as I could and insinuated the rod-tip through them, inch by inch. Fins quickened; a couple of fish turned full circle in little more than their body lengths and then settled again. I lowered the rod and let the weighted nymph on the end of the leader sink down.

Nine trout out of ten would have had that fly while it was on its first twinkling free fall: one trout in any group would have lunged forward and grabbed it lest a neighbour got there first.

But not the roach, not then and, indeed, not for a long time. Time after time, the wild and wily ten-a-penny fish parted to let the nymph through, then closed their ranks. They proved as much a test of my mettle that day as they had done when I was a boy. I tried ever-smaller flies and ever-finer leaders. I varied the weights and varied the colours and eventually persuaded one of the smaller fish to take.

It was only when I lifted the rod and felt the weight and let out a joyous whoop that I realised I was not alone. My friend and the keeper, unnoticed beneath a nearby alder, broke into mock applause.

They had been there, they said, for at least 15 minutes and I had been missing for nearly an hour.

That evening, my drive home took me through a town with a canal running through its centre. I caught a glimpse of someone fishing, glanced at my watch and pulled over to observe.

A youth of 19 or 20 was sitting by the side of the canal, float-fishing. There was a footpath immediately behind him and a municipal park behind that. Small boys ran and wrestled, old men stretched uncertain legs, women bustled, couples canoodled. And, oblivious to it all, the young man sat on his tackle-box casting out, reeling in, occasionally slipping a tiny silver

bleak into a keep-net that would have held Moby Dick.

All the world seemed intent on distracting him. It came in ones and twos and in family groups, sometimes with inquisitive dogs. There were the mildly curious, the amused and bemused, the titers, and the stoppers and talkers. One man turned angling first into a spectator sport, then into a proxy experience. He settled cross-legged beside the concentrating youth, neither speaking nor being spoken to, sharing the young angler's float, adrift on a suspended existence. He was still there when I left.

The walk back to my car took me to the wide bridge over which most of the evening traffic roared. Juggernauts ground and groined, cars riddled and inched, radio music fused to cacophony through a hundred wound-down windows; fumes shimmered in the hot, still air. The bridge itself was sprayed with graffiti — Jim and Tracy, Mods Are Back, Maggie Out and the rest.

There was a tiny patch of grass on the far side of the bridge, before the path curved away into what looked like it could have been an industrial estate. It was just big enough for the man sitting in the collapsible chair.

The man had a fishing rod beside him, and a box packed full of spoils and tins. A loaf of bread, clearly his bait, was close at hand. He had no float. His line ran straight down into the water and he was gazing intently towards the end of his rod, waiting for it to signal an offer.

Even in that soulless place beneath that dome of noise, the man in the collapsible chair was every bit as complete, every bit as hermetically sealed, as the lad sharing his float by the park.

And I understood them both, completely.



Time for reflections: a young man alone with his thoughts on the canal bank, while a spectator shares the experience

HOCKEY

Nicklin included in squad

THE rebuilding of an England men's team begins tomorrow with its Under-21 side in the junior European championship at Vught, Holland (Sydney Friskin writes).

Scotland and Wales join England in the eight-nation event, seeking a place in the junior world cup at Terrassa, Spain, in September next year. The top five will qualify.

Simon Nicklin, recently returned from the Olympic Games in Barcelona, is in a strong and well-prepared England squad of 16 which includes Davis, of St Albans, who has also played for Great Britain in matches leading up to the Olympics.

England's short-corn specialists, Waugh and Way, who is only 18, will have to learn new techniques as the initial hit from the line will now have to be stopped outside the circle.

England's first match in pool B tomorrow is against Switzerland, whom they should beat, but stronger opposition will follow in the form of Scotland and Holland. If form works out, Germany, Spain, England and Holland should qualify for Friday semi-finals with the final the following day.

ENGLAND SQUAD: S. Mason (Finland), J. Lewis (Holland), N. Conway (Canada), B. Cope (St Albans), P. Weir (Scotland), R. Bostick (Australia), C. Giles (Holland), J. Hauck (Netherlands), A. Humphrey (Wales), D. Bostick (Australia), S. Bostick (Australia), J. Bostick (Australia), W. Waugh (Scotland), D. Woods (St Albans), J. Wyatt (Finland).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan pay the price of success

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

JOHN Monie has returned for a fourth and final coaching term at Wigan to find half his invincible side of last season have either packed their bags, are preparing to leave, or are on the sick list after Great Britain's rigorous summer tour.

The Central Park edifice is hardly crumbling. Unlike their finances, the club's resources of aspiring talent remain bountiful, although the



Lydon plays on

obvious cracks in Wigan's all-conquering line-up can rarely have given their frustrated rivals so many crumbs of comfort on the eve of a new season.

Monie was frank about his changed lot yesterday. "Look at us now and we are more vulnerable, sure," he said. "Lose two champion players like Andy Gregory to Leeds and Gene Miles, and possibly a third because of Andy Platt's contractual dispute, and you've got to worry."

"Yes, it could well be tighter this time round. We've got to work on development to fill these big holes, although, do remember, we've still got a heck of a lot of the game's class acts."

Wigan will field nine of their Great Britain players against St Helens in the CIS Insurance Charity Shield at Gateshead tomorrow but cannot call on Shaun Edwards, Neil Cowie or Martin Dermott, who are recovering from injuries sustained while on tour. Joe Lydon and David Myers are also carrying nagging strains but are named in the team with Sam Panama as stand-by for Lydon in the

centre. The next nine months offer no respite to an already jaded Wigan, whose single, salutary reward for furnishing the Great Britain squad with a record 13 players has been extra overtime for those working in the club's treatment room.

With the demands of the domestic season now so oppressive, Wigan's principal players will be doing well to remain standing on their feet at the end of 18 months' continuous matchplay, beside attempting to win a fourth consecutive league championship and a sixth successive Challenge Cup.

With the club having tightened the purse-strings for the coming season, a greater onus will be placed on Wigan's feeder-bed system. Mick

Cassidy, 19, is included as hooker in tomorrow's game.

Mike McClellan, the St Helens coach, also has the problem of injuries to two of his internationals, Paul Loughlin and Sonny Nickle, as well as the chastening memory of the final game of last season, when Wigan put on a display of soaring brilliance to beat their team 48-16 in the Premiership Trophy, a record major final score.

A repeat in the non-combustible atmosphere at Gateshead is unlikely. Wigan, holders and three-times winners of the Charity Shield, have five changes from the Premiership-winning side and an untested combination of Franco Boticia and new recruit Martin Crompton, from Warrington, at half back.

Gus O'Donnell, St Helens' summer signing from Wigan, and Jonathan Griffiths are also an untied half back pairing. McClellan, however, senses chinks in the Wigan armour, and has summoned his strongest three-quarter line, featuring Great Britain's most promising emerging young players, Alan Hume and Gary Connolly.

EQUESTRIANISM

Nolan well placed to win title

By A CORRESPONDENT

PIPPA Nolan is lying in first and fourth place after the first day of dressage at the MacConnal-Mason British Open Championship at Gatcombe Park and is well poised to place at the national title that has narrowly eluded her for the past two years.

Nolan, a former European young rider champion is competing with her veteran Sir Barnaby on whom she finished second at Gatcombe both last year and in 1990, though she is hoping to improve her standing by one place when she tackles Mark Phillips' formidable cross country course on Sunday. Nolan is also riding her Bramham three-day event winner Metronome and has two other horses entered in the Advanced section.

Sir Barnaby, now 15 years old and "feeling as well as ever" was first to go in yesterday's dressage and turned in a good test to put Nolan, aged 23, two points clear of the American rider Christine Scarlett on The Oxford Don. Although Metronome's test was slightly disappointing it was good enough to take him into fourth place behind the Swiss rider Christian Landolt riding Enterprise V.

Ian Stark did not have such a good start to the event. Following Glenburnie's withdrawal because of injury, Stark had been expected to ride his test on the eight-year-old clan Royal today and found out only at the last moment that he was due in the arena at 2pm yesterday. "We had to hurriedly put clan Royal in the box and bring him over here," said Stark, who had been staying at Stowell Park with Lord and Lady Vestey, the owners of clan Royal.

He arrived at Gatcombe with just half an hour to spare but found himself in trouble again when he started to do the wrong dressage test. "We've always done the FEI test here before," explained a hot and bothered Stark afterwards. "But they changed it to the shorter Advanced test this year so that they could fit in all the competitors." Stark's error cost him two penalties but his final score of 37 means that he is still well enough placed to be a serious contender for the championship title.

RESULTS: Dressage: First day: 1. Modern (M. Nolan), 2. The Oxford Don (C. Scarlett), 3. Enterprise V (C. Landolt), 4. Glenburnie (I. Stark), 5. Metronome (P. Nolan), 6. S. 46 and Mrs J. Hurdle's Kings-Jester (H. Bostick, Netherlands) 35.

CYCLING

Further record bid from Boardman

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

AFTER nine days of racing in the national championship series, the Lotus super bike will make its first appearance at Leicester track today when Chris Boardman, the Olympic gold medal-winner, will attempt to break the world record for 5,000 metres.

His time in Barcelona in the 4,000 metres championship is likely to be ratified as a world record for that distance when the world governing body holds its international congress next month.

Last weekend, Boardman retained his national 4,000 metres amateur championship on a reasonably conventional machine in a time two seconds faster than his own championship record, which proved the point that he is an exceptional athlete with or without a special cycle.

Last year at Leicester, riding a standard machine, he broke the world record for 5,000 metres, only to lose it to Ken Bostick, of the United States. Riding at altitude in Colorado Springs, Bostick was timed at 5min 46.025sec, an improve-

ment of 1.681sec. Boardman is confident that the extra edge he will gain from using the Lotus, will more than overcome the lack of altitude at Leicester.

Another Lotus cycle has been seen on the track in Colorado this week, not used by Bostick but by the English professional Shaun Wallis.

He was a silver medal-winner in the world professional pursuit championship last year and is now undergoing altitude training in preparation for this year's event at Valencia.

He is likely to take advantage of the British technological advance in ten days' time for a Lotus engineer has been in Colorado working with Wallis to adjust both the machine and the rider's position to achieve the best possible streamlining effect.

Jon Walshaw, the home-based professional, who is hoping to be selected for the world pursuit championship is unlikely to have the option of a Lotus. In any case, he is contracted to Saracen Cycles.

SQUASH RACKETS

Young players stumble at semi-final hurdles

THREE of England's best young players met with disappointment yesterday. Rebecca Macree, the profoundly deaf Essex girl, lost her first big quarter-final to Martine Le Moignan, the British champion, in the New Zealand Open championship in Auckland, and Nicholas Cass, of Yorkshire, went down to the top seeds in the world junior championship in Hong Kong (Colin McQuillan writes).

Macree, who had beaten the world's fifth and twelfth-ranked players, to reach the last eight, could not deal with the unconventional left-handed power of Le Moignan,

whose semi-final opponent is Michelle Martin, of Australia, who yesterday put out Cassandra Jackman, of Norfolk.

The second semi-final will be between Susan Devoy, of New Zealand, who beat England's Lisa Opie, and Robyn Lambourne, of Australia. In Hong Kong, Cass, the third seed, lost an acrimonious match 7-9, 9-4, 9-6, 9-3 to the Canadian, Jonathan Power, whose short game and languid strokeplay were eventually too demanding for the Yorkshire player. Cass lost to John Raumolin, of Finland, 5-9, 9-4, 9-5, 9-4 in 59 minutes.

Results, page 27

SHOOTING

British fortunes show signs of improving

By OUR SHOOTING CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S shooting in the UTT (International Shooting Union) disciplines has been going through a rough patch recently, including the Olympic Games, but the performances this week at the Nordic shooting championships, particularly by the juniors in all disciplines, gives hope for the future.

The five Nordic nations are no easy opponents. They may not be as formidable as the Russians and Germans, for instance, but Sweden and Finland in particular have been giving our home shooters a serious test.

The shotguns certainly passed it with flying colours, and in the women's Olympic trap event they not only took gold, silver and bronze but the team gold as well.

James Birkett-Evans won the gold in the men's event, with the Olympic shooter, Kevin Gill, on silver, one point behind, and the pair and Jamie Garland also secured the team award.

Sarah Collyer, of East Grinstead, won the 50 metres

prone rifle women's gold medal and Andrew Campbell, who combines both small-bore shooting and the big-bore 300 metres, took the silver medal for 300 metres 60 shots prone.

In a close contest he scored a useful 593 out of 600, one point behind Mikael Larsson, of Sweden. John Davis had 590 and Neil Braisher 585.

The trio, totalled 1,768 but missed the team gold on the count-back.

Rachael Ambrose, who won a gold medal earlier in the week, took the junior women's 50 metres bronze.

In the junior Olympic trap, John Chesney, 17, won the silver and the British team in which he was joined by Peter Davies and Robert Garwood, won the team gold.

Richard Brickell won the silver in the junior men's skeet and in company with Richard McClashen, and Drew Harvey, who at 13 is the youngest in the tournament, finished third in the team event with 415.

Results, page 27

YACHTING

Ocean Leopard must go it alone for record

By BARRY PICKTHALL

MIKE Slade's 80ft-maxi, Ocean Leopard, set out from Hartlepool last night bound for Cowes in a final attempt to break Robin Knox-Johnston's round Britain sailing record.

They have until 10:30pm tomorrow to complete the 360-mile distance, a target that may not be helped by the weather. "It will be a close run thing. If the winds remain southerly then we stand a good chance, but if they head round to the west, it will be difficult to maintain the necessary average of 7.13 knots," Slade said yesterday.

The loss of the Combined Services yacht, Dump Truck, from the race means that Ocean Leopard sails this last leg alone. "It is a great pity Colin Watkins and his crew have had to withdraw, because we were having a great battle with them," Slade said. "Now we need to have the record in our sights just to keep the crew motivated."

Watkins and his team returned to Amble yesterday to check the full extent of the damage sustained to Dump

Truck after she had been towed from the rocks off the Northumberland coast on Thursday night. The hull had suffered extensive damage to her starboard side, her rudder was broken and keel bent. She is now expected to be shipped back by lorry to Green Marine, her builder, for repair.

As Ocean Leopard set out, a very relieved Mike Richards and his crew on the smaller Bounder, were celebrating their increased lead over the Youth Challenge crew during their compulsory 24-hour stopover in Hartlepool.

The Matthew Humphries-skipped Youth Challenge had closed to within 21 minutes of the larger Bounder on corrected time, until 25-knot head winds blew up on Thursday overnight to push them back. Now the gap is 3½ hours and Humphries is praying for the right conditions.

RESULTS: Third leg: Hartlepool: 1. Ben Water (S. Lovell), 2. The Ocean Leopard (M. Slade), 7:13. 3. Ocean Leopard (M. Slade), 7:17. 4. The Youth Challenge (M. Humphries), 7:47. 5. Queen (D. Pugh), 7:54. 6. Hecatombe (V. R. Farwell), 7:19. Overall (after 3 legs): 1. Bounder, 27:33. 2. The Youth Challenge, 27:50. 3. Ben Water, 27:21.

Nichaud makes early run

Leaver produce

FOOTBALL

CRICKET

Woosnam on way to ironing out chinks in his game

[illegible][illegible]

SECOND ROUND SCORES: 139: C
Zaner (70, 72, 68); 142: F Anderson
(Sw), 70, 72, 143: R Russell (Scot), 69, 74,
1 Scarpe (60, 73, 70); 144: R Strangar
(Sw), 71, 73, 145: S Wilkison (Wales), 76,
2 Scarpe (60, 73, 70); 146: J E Schepmann (Ger),
72, 76, 147: M Angler (Sw), 73, 72, 148: C
Watts (Eng), 72, 74; B Driedge (Wales), 75,
1 J. Munoz (Scz), 78, 72; D de Vooght (Bel),
70, 78, 149: I Garbut (Eng), 73, 74; A Pitt
(Sw), 78, 71; H Nvström (Sw), 76, 71; G

Ice theatre loses free expression

No fireworks

Snooker: Alex Higgins failed to produce any fireworks but a workmanlike display was good enough to secure a 5-2 victory over Leigh Griffin in the world championships qualifiers in Blackpool.

Viccano (Sp) bt A Costzer (SAI), 7-6, 5-2; M J Fernandez (US) bt N Zverev (DS), 6-4, 7-5; M. Matevo-Fraginieri (Switz), bt J Wiesner (Austrie), 6-3, 7-6; P Hy (Can) bt K Malosova (Bul), 6-3, 6-3; N Tazari (Fr) bt E Rainach (SA), 6-4, 4-6, 6-2; H Sukova (Cz) bt M Orensens (Hol), 6-0, 7-5; L Morici (US) bt C Cunningham (US), 7-5, 6-4.

YACHTING

PLYMOUTH: Merin rocket championships: Rangleigh Trophy: 1, P Imprey, J Brady (Ternabyte, Tarness SC). Championship: 1, P and J King (Savage, Bristol SC).

Blakey's call-up increases pressure on Russell



Blakey: curious choice

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

SATED by the excesses of Thursday's decisive third victory over Pakistan, England have made a concession to the clamour for progressive thinking by adding the uncapped Richard Blakey to their party for the two remaining games in the Texaco Trophy.

Blakey was summoned from Bradford, where he had been expecting to play for Yorkshire against Surrey. He joined the England side at Lord's and it is expected that both he and Dominic Cork will make their senior international debuts there today, giving a welcome new focus to a series which is effectively over. Cork will be a natural replacement for Gladstone

Small and his aptitude, as much as his acknowledged ability, will be scrutinised with a winter tour place in mind. Blakey, as a wicketkeeper-batsman, must presumably play today ahead of Alec Stewart, though how England anticipate him fitting into longer-term strategy remains to be seen.

Blakey, 25, began keeping wicket regularly for Yorkshire only in 1990, succeeding David Bairstow, and for two seasons the job appeared to be compromising his batting potential. He averaged 29 in 1990 and 21 last year and was in danger of joining Ashley Metcalfe in the lost generation of under-achieving Yorkshiremen. This summer, however, he has plainly come to terms with his dual role and

ENGLAND (from): G A Gooch (capt), J. Stanger, R. A. Smith, N. H. Fairbrother, G. A. Hick, A. J. Lamb, I. T. Botham, R. J. Blakey, C. C. Lewis, D. A. Rivers, R. H. Shepherd, P. A. J. DeSilva, G. C. Smith, D. G. Cork.

PAKISTAN (from): Javed Miandad (capt), Aamer Sohail, Ramiz Raja, Salim Malik, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Asif Mubeen, Wasim Akram, Rashed Latif, Waqar Younis, Mushtaq Ahmed, Aqib Javed, Naveed Anjum, Ijaz Ahmed. Umpires: J. Hampshire and R. Palmer. TELEVISION: BBC1: 10.40-13.0;

13.45-14.05: 14.15-14.25: 14.45-15.00: live coverage. BBC2: 19.55-20.30: highlights. WEATHER: Cloudy with some sun. Showers towards evening. RESULTS: May 20: Lord's: England won by 79 runs. May 22: The Oval: England won by 59 runs. August 20: Trent Bridge: England won by 188 runs. England lead best-of-five series 3-0. MATCH TO COME: Monday: Old Trafford.

Blakey, however, has a firm supporter in Keith Fletcher, who takes over as England team manager next month. Fletcher was greatly impressed by the Yorkshireman on his two England A tours and this rise to the senior side will give further cause for alarm to Jack

Russell and the campaign for classical wicketkeepers.

Russell is one of the six players who already have the security of a full tour contract for this winter, and it will be a great surprise if he is not selected for India. Blakey's promotion gives reason for doubt, though, and as the solitary change to the originally chosen 13, it is a curiosity.

The inclusion of Cork today would give still greater depth to the England batting, not that this may seem necessary following scores of 278, 302 and 363 in the games so far.

Hick and Neil Fairbrother. Last year, the Texaco game against West Indies at Lord's was decided by a thrilling partnership of 213 between this pair.

On Thursday, at Trent Bridge, Fairbrother scored 62 from 63 balls and Hick with a quite brilliant 63 from 42. It was marvellous to watch, yet bewildering, too. What we have here is two batting enigmas, both apparently unable to reproduce their one-day flair within the more intense confines of Test match cricket. Hick's average in one-day internationals is 38 but in Tests only 18. Fairbrother's comparison is still more remarkable—43 against eight. There are those who contend that seven disjointed

Tests have not given Fairbrother sufficient opportunity to shed his inhibitions. His method, however, supports the view that he is a one-day specialist. His runs are worked, with angled bat, into gaps behind square which simply do not exist in the five-day game. Hick is different. He has technical flaws which the best bowlers have exposed but he has also allowed Test cricket to dictate to him, rather than dictating his own game as he has done throughout his career. Nobody who can play the sort of shots with which he pulverised Pakistan's leading bowlers on Thursday is incapable of succeeding at Test level, and I hope he is given the chance against the less daunting Indian bowlers.

Liverpool prepare for physical tussle with Arsenal

United look for inspiration in Robson's absence

By CLIVE WHITE

IT NEVER rains but it pours — particularly so, it seems, in Manchester. If ever there was a job for Captain Marvel — United's Bryan Robson — this was it. Bottom of the table after conceding five goals in two games and accused of unprofessionalism by Alex Ferguson, their manager, United are in dire need of Robson's inspirational qualities.

Yesterday, it was revealed, however, that the brittle former England captain will be out of the game for at least a further month because of the recurrence of a hamstring injury he aggravated in a pre-season match against Celtic at Parkhead on July 29.

The only cure is rest. If only the remedy for United's collective ailments was as simple. The embarrassing 3-0 reverse at Old Trafford against Everton on Wednesday was particularly perplexing for Ferguson in as much as it contained, according to the United manager, some of the best attacking play United have shown in recent times. Furthermore, they were immensely proud of their defen-

sive record last season, when the championship was theirs for the taking only to belly flop in the best Devon Loch tradition. It took United 13 games last season to concede as many as five goals and in the first four games of the season their defence was never breached.

Ferguson was hoping to recall Robson during these troubled times, as much for his leadership qualities as for what he could contribute as a player. With Ince unavailable after damaging his hip on the opening day and Webb still to reconcile his differences with Ferguson, United's need for a midfield player of substance has heightened still further. The finger of suspicion points in directions other than defence.

United's interest in Andy Townsend, the driving force of Chelsea and the Republic of Ireland, which was thought to have withered when the Stamford Bridge club gave United's offers of players in part exchange or £2 million cash the thumbs down, may yet have to be revived.

United will be looking to redeem themselves against

Ipswich at Old Trafford today just as Arsenal, with whom they are in good company at the bottom, will be attempting to halt the rot, in rather more trying circumstances, against Liverpool at Anfield in tomorrow's televised game.

Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager, is bracing his team for a physical confrontation after the way in which Arsenal allowed themselves to be knocked out of their stride by Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park on Wednesday. His opposite number is not about to disappoint him.

"We are going to have to be a lot more physical," George Graham, the Arsenal manager, said. "We've got a lot of talent in the team now but we must remember we're playing English football in the English league and we mustn't sacrifice the physical aspect of our game."

Lovers of the more cultured aspect of our game may be equally disappointed to learn that Ian Rush and Ian Wright, the respective rapiers finishers of Liverpool and Arsenal, are both given only a 50-50 chance of being fit after missing midweek games with groin and ankle injuries, respectively.

Arsenal's predicament threatens to worsen next Wednesday when due to international calls they will be without Jensen, Limpar and Lydersen, their three Scandinavians, for the game against Oldham Athletic at Highbury. It has brought Graham at loggerheads once more with the Swedish FA.

"I accept losing them for World Cup ties, as in the case of Jensen," but the Swedes insist on having Limpar for a friendly," Graham said. "I've been very disappointed with the Swedes' attitude. They're not cooperating."

England aided by BSkyB favour

THE first signs that BSkyB is prepared to be flexible in its coverage of the Premier League emerged yesterday when Middlesbrough's match with Sheffield United on Monday, September 7 was moved because players from both clubs are likely to be wanted for international duty two days later.

The match at Ayresome Park has been returned to its original date on the previous Saturday and the likely replacement for Sky's Monday night live show is Oldham Athletic v Coventry City.

The move, which reveals an initiative to assist Graham Taylor, the England manager, means that Brian Deane, the Sheffield United forward, is clear for a possible England call-up against Spain in Santander on September 9. His clubmate, Glyn Hodges, of Wales, and Bernie Slaven, the Middlesbrough and Republic of Ireland forward may be needed for World Cup qualifiers.

Tottenham Hotspur have complained to the Football Association over comments a referee is reported to have made about Gordon Durie, their Scotland forward. Dermot Gallagher booked Durie following an incident involving Andy Pearce, of Coventry City, at White Hart Lane on Wednesday.

Gallagher was reported as saying that he had booked Durie for "ungentlemanly conduct" because he had "feigned a head-butt to get an opponent sent off". Gallagher was also said to have suggested that Tottenham were disappointed with their performance in a 2-0 defeat.

"We have made a complaint to the Premier League," Doug Livermore, the Tottenham coach, said yesterday. "We are not allowed to comment on referees but now we see a referee not only commenting on Pearce and Durie but also our performance."



Wrapped in concentration: Jeff Ratskin, of Israel, on his way to his first defeat in 11 games in the world bowls championships at Worthing. He was beaten 25-20 by Richard Corsie, of Scotland. Report, page 27

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New ball game for Olympics

RUGBY league an Olympic sport? Sydney is alive with Olympic enthusiasm and is revelling in the thought of the 2000 Olympics. Sydney is one of the favourites to host the Games and the Sydneysiders are already keen to show the world a thing or two.

That includes rugby league: there is already a very real possibility for league as a demonstration sport. The idea is most expansively proposed by John Fahey, the New South Wales premier. "Sydney is the rugby capital of the world," he said. His notion is to include a seven-a-side tournament. "It would be spectacular stuff," he said.

It is the historical and philosophical implications that make this so interesting. The notion of the Holy Amateur was largely defined for the world by the split between rugby league and rugby union. The issue was "broken

time" payments to players who missed a shift down the mine to play rugby. The split took place in 1894, two years before the first Olympics.

The moral arguments were secondary: class exclusivity was primary. These days, Holy Amateur has been banished from the Games, the Olympics are professional, Dream Teams and all, and rugby league seems the logical next step. The hypocritical nonsense of the cult of the Holy Amateur has been seen for what it is almost all sports. The only major exception is an oval ball game that still operates on 1894 principles.

The Great Man

They are opening a shrine to Gary Lineker at the Duchess Theatre, and well they might. In the recession-ravaged West End, the play *An Evening with Gary Lineker* has continued to pack 'em in. The shrine was opened this week, with electric candles, fairy lights, and an image of the great man himself. However, let us not get carried away: I am sure Graham Taylor has a shrine dedicated to Alan Smith in the privacy of his own home.



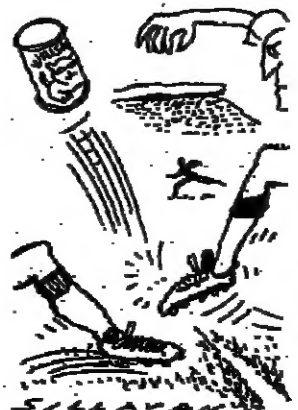
SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

It had to be. After the Dream Team, the Dream team. The success of the United States team of basketball millionaires could not be ignored: now they are talking about a dream team to contest the ice hockey at the next Winter Olympics, which take place in Lillehammer in 1994. America's National Hockey League needs to vote on this at the annual meeting next week.

One snag is that this won't make the event a laydown for the United States. Canada, a dominant part of the NHL, would also have a dream team. All of which brings me, inevitably, to fighting: there were only 1,554 fights last season, a mere 1.75 per game. This is the lowest total since 1983-4. It's not the fighting but the taking part, have I got that right?

Offer of help

Halifax Town are down on their luck. "I received a letter last week from Readers Digest informing me that I had not been included in their lucky draw," wrote the manager, John McGrath, to potential sponsors. "I am going to have to listen to offers for all my players, including the club cat, Benny." A computer software firm offered Halifax enough cat food to last the season.



Women's rights

Ron Edwards, an Australian MP, has suggested that nations that refuse to allow women to compete in sporting events should be banned from the 1996 Games in Atlanta. Edwards said the International Olympic Committee should tell countries that do not treat women equally in sports that they are not welcome at the Games. This would appear to rule out just about every nation on earth, but it is plainly aimed at the Islamic nations. Algerian fundamentalists attempted to stop Hassiba Boulmerka running at the Olympics: she went on to win the 1,500 metres.

Show of respect

Meanwhile, Linford Christie is considering taking the tabloid press to the Press Complaints Commission. There has been much anger at stories that celebrated Christie's Olympic achievements by concentrating less on his athleticism than on the bulge in his shorts. Dignity has not been helped by a publicity-crazed butcher inventing "the Linford Christie sausage". Write your own

headlines, but Christie is furious about it all. "The press have been disrespectful," he told the black newspaper, *The Voice*. "Instead of using me as a role model for kids, they are making a mockery of me." "No such scurrilous stories have been created around gold medalist Sally Gunnell," the paper editorialised bitterly. "But then she's white."

Peace and quiet

Don't mention the war. I have an exciting press release on my desk: "In the peaceful country of Slovenia on the picturesque shores of Lake Bled, Andrea Doyle, executive director of the Women's Professional Golfers' European Tour, has signed a three-year contract for the Slovenian Classic." The release quotes the prime minister, Dr Janez Drnovsek: "The purpose of the tournament is partly to raise much needed funds for the Children's Embassy in Sarajevo and also to promote the fact that this part of the world is not involved in the war currently raging in the south and is once again establishing itself as a major tourist destination."

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